

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVI.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 21st September, at Tokyo, the wife of JOHN TRUMBULL SWIFT, M.A., of a son.

On the 22nd September, at Prye Sugar Estate, Province Wellesley, Straits, the wife of JOHN LAMB, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 4th October, at H.B.M. Consulate and afterwards at Katchich Chapel, Swatow, by the Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, FREDERICK CHARLES, fourth son of the late R. T. BUTCHER, of Brentford, Middlesex, to MARIE CATHERINE (MITA), youngest daughter of the late Captain F. W. FOCKEN, of Swatow.

DEATH.

On the 6th October, at 7.30 p.m., at Elliot Crescent West, Robinson Road, CARL JOHANN PAUL, youngest child and only son of CARL and CAROLINE ROGGE, aged 17 months and 17 days.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 11th September arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, on the 10th October (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that an earthquake has destroyed the United States naval works on Guam island.

Major-General Sir A. R. F. Dorrard has been reappointed to the command of the Singapore garrison.

The Moukden division of Manchuria, as far as the Liao river, was restored to China by Russia on the 8th instant.

H.E. Liu Kung-yi, Viceroy of the Liang-Kiang provinces, died from dysentery, at Nanking, at 8 a.m. on the 8th inst. He was 74 years old.

As had been arranged with the late H.E. Liu Kung-yi before his death, all the foreign troops are to be withdrawn from Shanghai on the 1st November.

It is rumoured at St. Petersburg that M. de Witte, Russian Minister of Finance, intends visiting Corea with a view to strengthening the position of M. Alexieff, Russian representative at Seoul, and reorganising Corea's finances.

St. Petersburg papers, discussing the reports of agricultural and industrial depression on the Russian side of the Amur River, contrasted with the prosperity on the other side, advocate that the whole Amur basin should in future belong to Russia.

A Japanese loan of five millions sterling was offered for subscription at par on Tuesday, the 7th inst. It was issued in bonds of 1,000 yen each at a guaranteed exchange of 2s. to the yen. The *Globe* says that nothing can be more desirable from the point of view of England than that Japan should be strengthened and supported in finance, her one weak point. The loan has been well covered.

The German Government is doing its best to induce German subjects to settle in the Kiaochau territory, and in view of this has issued an Imperial order which indicates that such Germans who are engaged in permanent service of the Governor of Kiaochau and who either belong to the army or to the civil officers of State, if they let their families come to the settlement they will have free passage out and home for them, in addition to compensation for the rent of the residence at home. The family comprises wife and children, and such relations who live in the family at the time of leaving home.

Our Amoy correspondent telegraphed on the 5th October: "A great fire broke out here at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, the 3rd instant, starting in a baker's shop in Fourth Street. The flames spread rapidly toward the Bund. The total native business portion of Amoy was destroyed, as also were the houses of Messrs. Douglas Lapaik & Co., Jardine, Matheson & Co., and Danver & Co. The Printing Press and other hongs and the Custom House escaped owing to the strenuous exertions of the Europeans. The shipping in the harbour lent assistance. Captain Fife of the *Wenchow* was killed. On Saturday about 2,000 houses had been burnt, involving a loss of many millions of dollars. Several [native] merchants committed suicide. The fire lasted till Saturday morning. Trade is at a standstill." Further details will be found on p. 277.

A Russo-Japanese Society has been established at Moscow for the purpose of promoting Russo-Japanese commerce. It establishes a mill at Minsk for weaving Japanese raw silk.

Owing to the latter's illness, General and Mrs. Chaffee have decided to abandon the journey through the Suez to New York, on the *McClellan* and instead will go home by way of San Francisco on the army transport *Sumner*.

The Philippines Commission having certified that complete peace exists throughout the islands, except in the region of Lake Lanao, in the island of Mindanao, President Roosevelt has, in accordance with the Act of Congress, ordered that a census of the archipelago be taken.

Cholera is raging in the island of Samar and threatens to depopulate the island, says the *Manila Cable News*. In many villages where formerly there were 2,000 inhabitants, there are now only a dozen or so, the remainder having fled to the hills, where dead bodies to the number of hundreds are lying about where they died.

The *Times* commenting on the reference of the Japanese House-Tax question to the Hague Arbitration Court, eulogises the courtesy and good humour displayed by both parties, as also the graceful and becoming concessions on the part of the Japanese Government, which show a high sense of what befits Japan as a great power.

A Tokyo despatch to the *Mainichi* states that the Japanese officials concerned in the house tax question are busy preparing the documents to be forwarded to The Hague Arbitration Tribunal. It has been decided that the Japanese Government shall nominate one committee and the three Treaty Powers another. The umpire in the case will be a certain European sovereign, but the name is not made public.

A despatch dated Washington, 28th September, says:—Admiral Robley D. Evans has cabled the Navy Department that he has started up the Yangtze River to Ichang to investigate rumours of American mission disturbance at this place which had reached him. As yet the Department has no knowledge of the nature of the disturbances, but if the several American missions located there are threatened, it is asured that Admiral Evans will afford the Americans ample protection.

The Russian undertakings at Dalny are, according to latest news, progressing very favourably. The advance of the port has had the result of increasing very largely the number of Japanese merchants and labourers there, and the necessity for the appointment of a Consul to Dalny has become evident. Mr. Uchida, Japanese Minister to Peking, has laid the matter before his Government, and the result will probably be the establishment of the consulate desired during next year.

A Treaty between France and Siam has been signed at Paris. Siam cedes to France the provinces of Melaprey and Bas-ec, also the territory on the Great Lake between the rivers Rolnas and Peckkompong. France evacuates Chantaboon. Siam may keep troops, but only Siamese officered by Siamese, on the right bank of the Mekong. In the event of Siam desiring to construct ports, canals, or railways, within the Siamese portion of the Mekong basin, French assistance is to be preferentially sought.

THE ANGLO-CHINESE TREATY.

(Daily Press, 6th October.)

In a recent issue the *Japan Mail* says that the United States "cannot be expected to agree" to the new Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty, that "Germany will not agree to any part of the surtax scheme", and that it has already shown "that the new treaty must be intolerable to Japan in some respects." This is a fairly sweeping statement of the case against Sir JAMES MACKAY's treaty, and if it can be substantiated we are then very far indeed from a solution of the difficulties of the commercial situation in China. An important piece of news in this connection was published in our senior evening contemporary's Shanghai telegram of Saturday's date, giving the result of the meeting of the American Association of Shanghai held on the 3rd instant to consider the treaty. Resolutions were there passed unanimously condemning the document and these resolutions were to be forwarded to the Department of State at Washington, to the United States Treaty Commissioners, and to the American Asiatic Association. The grounds for this strong line of action are summarised in the latter part of the resolutions. Therein the members of the Association record their belief that no additional benefits will accrue to American trade under the conditions proposed in Article VIII of the treaty, and that the present benefits will be negated by the concessions granted by the surtax, and reaffirm their opinion as to the inability of the Chinese Government to abolish *lekin* and other illegal taxation. The Association deprecates any attempt to impose or sanction in treaty form excise and consumption taxes on the internal trade and merchandise of China, an independent friendly nation. Finally the Association maintains that the additional surtax on exports from China, coupled with excise and consumption taxes, as proposed, will tend to continue China as a debtor nation, retard her internal development and prosperity, and by hampering her purchasing power, seriously affect foreign trade. Thus Sir JAMES MACKAY's scheme for the reformation of the existing conditions of trade in China is absolutely rejected by the American Association of Shanghai. Now since, as is pointed out in the first sentence of the resolutions, the Anglo-Chinese treaty contains certain articles and clauses which will not become operative unless all the Powers entitled to the most favoured nation treatment in China enter into the same engagements as Great Britain with regard to the payment of surtaxes and other obligations imposed by Article VIII, it follows that if Washington accepts the advice given by the American Association the MACKAY treaty will be upset, and the time hitherto spent in the commercial negotiations will have been wasted except in so far as it provides another lesson as to the difficulty of concluding arrangements between China and the Powers. Should the abandonment of Sir JAMES MACKAY's treaty follow, those who at home and in the East approved of his scheme will naturally be disgusted; while those, on the other hand, who did not believe in the feasibility of the scheme, will rejoice that the treaty will not be called on to prove by its failure that they were right in their opinion. But it remains to be seen first what is the attitude of the other Treaty Powers. The outlook is once more clouded with doubt and uncertainty.

A Japanese telegram, received in Shanghai on the 29th ult. from Chungking, announces that peace has been restored in Szechuen.

H.E. LIU KUNG-YI'S DEATH.

(Daily Press, 10th October.)

Pressure of other matters must be our excuse for not having referred before in this column to the death at Nanking on the 6th instant of H.E. LIU KUNG-YI, Viceroy of the Liang-Kiang provinces. The decease of so remarkable a man certainly calls for some tribute to his memory. Had LIU KUNG-YI never come into prominence before the troublous times of 1900-01, his conduct then would have sufficed to commend him to the respect of all the foreign Powers that have dealings with China. As one of the three leading Chinamen who helped to preserve their country in spite of its rulers and a large section of its inhabitants, he will always have an honourable place in history. Like several other notable Chinese officials, LIU was a Hunanese and it was in his native province and the neighbouring Kwangsi that he first made his name in the operations against the Taiping rebels. In 1865 he obtained a reward in the Governorship of the latter province. His good character brought him, as it does not always bring honest men in China, promotion, until in 1872 he was appointed Viceroy at Canton. Mr. E. H. PARKER in that amusing book *John Chinaman* has much to say of LIU KUNG-YI, with whom he first came into personal contact at Canton. He pays the deceased Viceroy a handsome tribute. "What particularly impressed me about 'LIU KUNG-YI,' he says, 'was his absolute frankness and loyalty. He never would connive at, or at least begin, any trickery or intrigue. . . . He is now' [1901] 'seventy years of age, and no word has ever been breathed against his incorruptibility by even his bitterest enemies, of whom he has many.' This is indeed an uncommon record for a Chinese official, and Mr. PARKER does not exaggerate when he says that 'LIU was a man of whom any Western nation might be proud.' He was appointed to the Liang-Kiang provinces in 1879 first, but his opium-smoking proclivities brought him into disgrace. He is reported to have contracted the habit during the hardships of military service, and is said to have keenly regretted it, though he never made any secret of his indulgence. In spite of his temporary downfall he was re-appointed to Nanking, and held the post of Viceroy there until his death last month, except for a brief period when he was away on military service in the China-Japan war. To foreign officials in China he did not become well-known until the period of the "Boxer" troubles, when in combination with CHANG CHIH-TUNG and YUAN SHI-KAI he saw how the real interests of his country lay and devoted himself with his whole heart to preventing the Boxer madness from spreading over Central China. The Powers were compelled then to recognise the merits of LIU KUNG-YI, previously obscure to them, perhaps in part naturally, since he had the reputation of being a persecutor of Christians in Kiangsi earlier in his career. However, even then he showed himself open to conviction, and though he had no respect for the beliefs and did not credit the purity of motive of the native Christians, he recognised the good of the medical and school work of the missionaries, and during the last twenty years or so redeemed his character from the charge of persecution. LIU KUNG-YI must go down to posterity with the reputation of being a fine and upright Chinaman, not because he came under Western influence,

but because of his innate nobility. The high posthumous honours conferred on him by his own country have their complement in the sympathetic verdict of those foreigners who know anything about him.

RUSSIA IN THE NEAR AND FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 7th October.)

Russia is managing at the present moment to keep herself very prominently before the public view, and not only on account of her proceedings in one quarter of the globe. The attention of the Far East is kept constantly fixed on her over the Manchurian evacuation question, particularly at this present moment, to-morrow being the day appointed for the restoration of the first section of Manchuria to China. The story has proved correct, to which we alluded last week, that the Chinese have a document to sign before the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang line is completely restored. This agreement the Viceroy is to sign to-day, for the previous report of the Chinese resumption of the line was premature. The withdrawal of Russian troops from the south-western part of the Moukden division of Manchuria will follow to-morrow, according to Russia's frequently reiterated promise, and six months later the second step in the evacuation is guaranteed. To outward appearance, therefore, Russia is keeping fairly to the arranged dates. But it is curious that Prince OUCHTOMSKY has taken the opportunity just now to declare his opinion that an early evacuation of Manchuria is impossible—an expression which the London *Standard's* correspondent says is believed to be officially inspired. As in the case of all Russian diplomatic utterance, other nations may well be at a loss whom to credit.

While Russia is apparently receding in the Farthest East, except in the Amur region, she has suddenly made a diversion nearer home, raising again the question which was settled by the Treaty of Paris. Now this action on the part of the Tsar's Government follows startlingly close upon the amicable remarks of the Tsar himself on the occasion of the late Royal and other visits to St. Petersburg. However, it is not a novelty for the Tsar to be talking of peace while his Ministers or their agents are to all intents stirring up strife. It is only charitable to believe that the monarch is the dupe of intriguers. A few months ago the Balkans were perfectly quiet, and the only trouble affecting Turkey was a small difference with the United States Government. Now we have the Dardanelles question, the Albanian question, and the Macedonian question. Russia's connection with the last is not proved and may be non-existent; her connection with the other two is that she has raised them suddenly without a cause "which can be diplomatically explained," as a recently made phrase has it. But a possible cause is not perhaps far to seek. Russia's aspirations in the region of the Persian Gulf are well known and have been much written of lately. The Indian Government, however, is very much alive to the danger of Russia's activity there, and there is reason to believe that pressure is being brought to bear on the home authorities, while a friendly critic of Britain, Captain MAHAN, has expressed his opinion on the subject freely. On the other hand the German railway concession through Asia Minor to the Gulf promises to become a working concern, if only the question of a loan can be satisfactorily settled. A scheme for the unification of the Turkish

debt, through French aid, seems likely to do this. Russia is therefore confronted with the possibility of British and German railways running from East and West to meet on the Persian Gulf. The embarrassment of Turkey at this juncture cannot but affect the German scheme. Russia always has it in her power to embarrass her southern neighbour in Europe and she has not failed to do so now. No valid reason for Russia's anxiety to establish a vice-consulate at Mitrovitz, a small town on the Albanian-Bosnian border, can be discovered, and still less for the despatch of a Cavass party to the proposed vice-consulate, in spite of Albanian protest and without waiting for the Porte's acquiescence. The Dardanelles incident is still less explicable except as part of an aggressive movement against the peace of Turkey and of all concerned in the Turkish question. The Treaty of Paris, by which the Sultan is bound to prohibit during times of peace the entrance of foreign warships into the Bosphorus or Dardanelles, is an international agreement. Yielding to pressure, the Porte has just permitted the passage of several Russian torpedo-boats through the Dardanelles. It is true that it was specified that the torpedo-boats were to be unarmed, but this makes them none the less warships, and moreover, as our London correspondent telegraphed, the vessels made no unostentatious passages, while at the same time a Russian ironclad paid a visit to Constantinople with a member of the Royal Family on board, and festivities were held at the famous Shipka Pass in Bulgaria, also attended by high Russian representatives. When there is added the request of Russia for two coaling-stations, one in the Aegean and one on the Turkish side of the Black Sea, it will be seen that there is good ground for suspecting Russia's designs in the neighbourhood of the Bosphorus. The matter does not rest in the hands of Turkey alone, or it might be considered already settled in favour of the aggressors. The Treaty of Paris cannot be abrogated at the desire of Russia, and the other Powers have no reason for tolerating its violation. Once more Russia is threatening to run amuck among treaty engagements, and menaces the peace of the world.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION MEETING.

(Daily Press, 8th October.)

The annual meeting of the local Branch of the China Association, held at the City Hall on Monday afternoon, was not very largely attended, but the proceedings were interesting and harmonious, and the account of the work done was very satisfactory. No doubt there would have been a larger attendance had the hour of meeting been fixed a little later, say five o'clock, when the commercial offices would have been closed and opportunity afforded to all the members to turn up. We trust this will be done on the next occasion, for this is emphatically a body to encourage, and it will be well to show that its work is being strongly supported. The Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR, who presided, made a breezy, spirited speech, in which, after reviewing the work done by the Committee during the past year and commenting on some of the more important questions dealt with, he termed the Consuls the official watch-dogs of British interests in China, and the Association the unofficial watch-dog, whose business it is to sound the alarm in case the official watch-dogs have been asleep or have been unable to make the warnings sufficiently heard in London. This is a

very apt review of the position. The officials do, sometimes, need a little waking up, and their representations to the Foreign Office are often greatly assisted when backed up by statements or protests from a commercial body like the China Association. Moreover, the Association has an advantage over a body such as the Chamber of Commerce, in being entirely British. Matters that could hardly be submitted to a cosmopolitan body like the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce can be and are laid before the Association confidentially for their opinion and advice. These opinions are not only sought but they are listened to. Mr. PLAYFAIR, at the meeting on Monday, gave an instance of this. Quoting from a letter received that morning from the London Branch of the Association, he read the following passage:—"Not only have your protests been promptly forwarded to the Foreign Office, but we have evidence that they have been acted upon." This statement evoked a sharp round of applause, and is indeed an encouragement not always vouchsafed to voluntary unofficial effort.

A perusal of the correspondence appended to the Report, comprising some thirty-six pages, shows that the local Branch of the China Association has fully recovered from the moribund condition into which it was at one time thought to have sunk, and is now very much alive. The energetic Chairman has evidently put his back into it, and with gratifying results. The Branch is able to make its voice heard, and it is now consulted, its advice acted upon, and its protests heeded. The Committee now contains a good deal of fresh blood, and with a Chairman like Mr. PLAYFAIR there is little danger of questions growing cold before they are grappled with, or of their being tackled so tamely that the protests forwarded to London fail to arouse interest or to enlist support. We are pleased to note this change in the Association, and are also gratified to find its influence steadily increasing. There is need for such a body in all conscience. In these days of excessive competition we must keep on the alert to see that no exceptional advantages are conceded in China to our foreign rivals, and, if need be, to prod the British manufacturer into action instead of resting on his laurels and allowing others to reap where he has sown but not held the field effectively. Yet more necessary still is it that the unofficial watch-dog should remain sleeplessly on duty to guard the concession for which such a heavy price has been demanded. We refer to the abolition of *tekin* on imports into China. If the agreement negotiated by Sir JAMES MACKAY be faithfully observed, it cannot fail to prove beneficial by giving a great impetus to trade and ridding China of a legion of official harpies who devour the revenue while engaged in collecting it. But there is great danger of the treaty not being kept in the spirit even if it is carried out in the letter. The Chinese Government has, during the entire period of its intercourse with foreign states, proved so entirely lacking in good faith, so blind to its moral obligations, that it would be crassest folly to imagine that on this occasion it is likely to undergo any sudden conversion to truth and duty. It will be more than ever necessary to watch ceaselessly, jealously, and with Argus eyes for infractions of treaty stipulations having for their object the imposition of some new illegal impost on imports, which is calculated to check the development or in some cases actually to destroy the promising trade laboriously built up. Meanwhile it is only fair to observe, *en passant*, that the watch duties of the

Association would be made pleasant indeed and would be materially lightened were every British consular official as energetic and as zealous for British commercial interests as Mr. JAMES SCOTT, His Majesty's present representative at Canton.

THE ILLEGAL OPIUM FARM.

(Daily Press, 8th October.)

In a leading article in our issue of the 23rd September we gave some particulars of an illegal opium-farm at Canton, working in defiance of the Chefoo Convention of 1876, and stated that we had every reason to believe that the existence of this venture would shortly terminate. We have now to put before our readers some documents dealing with the question, including one putting an end to the illegal farm. We must state, to begin with, that our information is derived through a Chinese source and that there is in consequence no claim to the verbal accuracy of the documents now published, the first being a retranslation from the Chinese, whereas the other two are confessedly only paraphrases.

The first document is addressed by Mr. JAMES SCOTT, British Consul-General, to the Viceroy at Canton, and runs as follows:—

"With reference to Your Excellency's despatch of the thirtieth day of the first moon, wherein you propose to send Hu Yux taotai to consult with me on the subject of the tax on prepared opium: Hu Taotai has called upon me, when I asked him to inform you that I firmly opposed the tax on prepared opium on account of its being a violation of the Treaty. In former cases where the Commissioners and the taotai have proposed the establishment of a new tax, no interference has been made; but on this occasion I have reported the tax to the British Minister at Peking, who has in turn reported it to the British Government. The Government has replied, ordering strong opposition to the tax, as being against Additional Article No. 3 of the Chefoo Convention, which stipulates that 'such [transit] certificate shall free the opium to which it applies from the imposition of any farther tax or duty whilst in transport in the interior, provided that the package has not been opened, and that the Customs seals, marks, and numbers on the packages have not been effaced or tampered with.' With regard to the claim of the Kwong Hing Company that opium shall pay the new tax on the prepared drug before its arrival, whether it be repacked or not, it is evident that this is a breach of the Chefoo Convention. I therefore beg that you will give your careful consideration to the matter and order that the aforesaid tax be stopped; and that you will issue notice to merchants, letting them know that the old regulations with regard to opium are in force."

Next comes a telegram from the Wai Wu-pu to the Viceroy at Canton, which is as follows:—

"This is to inform you that Minister Hu has left Peking and that a despatch has been received from the British Minister, Sir E. SATOW, in reply to our telegrams on the subject of the new opium tax. The British Minister states that this tax is a violation of the Chefoo Convention, which says that when the tax has been properly levied on opium before its arrival at its destination, it shall be free from the imposition of any further tax whatever, even though it is repacked under Customs supervision. The British

"Minister asks for the abolition of the new tax. May I ask that the Chefoo Convention be studied and a reply sent by telegraph to the Wai Wu-pu?"

In accordance with his telegram from the Wai Wu-pu, the Governor on the 19th day (of what moon it is not stated; probably the current moon) issued to his subordinate official the following notice:—

"A private telegram has been received from the Wai Wu-pu to the effect that 'Minister Hu has left Peking', etc, [as above]. 'I, the Governor of Canton, therefore order that the Provincial Treasurer, in conjunction with the Board of Taxation, shall abolish the new tax on prepared opium at once and that you send by telegraph a report on the present state of affairs to the Wai Wu-pu. Obey this!'"

From the above the benefit accruing from the display of a little firmness on the part of the British Government may be seen. The obnoxious tax, a flagrant violation of the Chefoo Convention, has been ordered to cease. But for this display of vigour it might have been imposed for an indefinite period, though nominally only put on to allow the Canton Viceroy to raise additional funds to contribute to the payment of the war indemnity.

THE SPOILIATION OF SIAM.

(Daily Press, 10th October.)

The spoliation of Siam continues. REUTER's telegram of the 7th instant gives an out-line of the new Franco-Siamese Treaty just concluded at Paris, by which France takes from Siam two provinces on the western bank of the Mekong, Bassak and Meluprey and a small portion of territory on the shores of the Great Lake, presumably in the province of Angkor, though the rivers mentioned in the telegram are not marked in any atlas which we have consulted. By this France gains what may roughly be described as a triangle of land whose base is Cambodia and its eastern side one hundred and twenty miles or more of the Annam river frontier, and a smaller triangle on the Great Lake. Further, Siam binds herself to seek preferentially French assistance in constructing ports, canals, or railways in the Mekong basin. In return Siam secures the evacuation of the port of Chantaboon which France has held since 1893, in accordance with the terms, as she claims (but in defiance of them as it seems to most fair-minded judges), of the Franco-Siamese convention of 1893. Siam is also to be allowed to keep troops, but only troops of her own countrymen and officered by Siamese, on her side of the Mekong. It is not clear whether this implies the abolition of the "neutral zone." If not, of course the permission given to Siam to garrison part of her own territory is even more farcical than it would otherwise be. The result of the last turn of the screw put on Siam is that France, in return for evacuating a port which she continued to hold on the principle that Might is Right, and possibly for the abolition of the most unjust stipulation about the twenty-five kilometre zone, secures a large slice of territory to the north of Cambodia and makes another step in the direction of converting the Great Lake into purely French water. Of this Great Lake a former Governor of Indo-China wrote:—"The Great Lake has not merely a great economic importance; it has also an immense political value. The entire possession of that great depression and of the basin which it drains is one of the most important desiderata of the work

"which we have hitherto pursued in an empirical way, but which we can and should accomplish henceforth systematically. The western part of the lake especially—namely, the part which our too ignorant or too careless diplomacy ceded to Siam with the provinces of Battambang and Angkor—is one of the vital points of the peninsula, from whatever point of view, commercial, political, or military, we regard it." We have italicised in the above a characteristic piece of French diplomatic blague. But the Governor-General's aspirations seem well on their way toward realisation. The French administration has long had its eye on the whole province of Angkor, and it is not likely that its greed will be satisfied with the present small acquisition on the Great Lake's shores.

TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

DEATH OF LIU KUNG-YI.

SHANGHAI, 7th October, 7.2 p.m.

H.E. Liu Kung-yi, the Nanking Viceroy, died at 8 a.m. on the 6th instant. Before dying he recommended Cheng Wei-nieh or En Shou as his successor. The first named is his probable successor.

All flags here have been half-masted out of respect to H.E. Liu Kung-yi.

LONDON, 7th October, 10 p.m.

The papers regard the death of H.E. Liu Kung-yi as a great misfortune, and praise the tact and energy of the deceased. They trust that the foreign representatives at Peking will use their influence to prevent the nomination to the vacant Viceroyalty of a partisan of Prince Tuan's ideas.

SHANGHAI, 8th October, 7.42 p.m.

An Imperial decree appoints Chang Chih-tung Acting Viceroy of the Liang-Kiang and Tuan Fang Acting Viceroy of the Hu-Kuang. The general opinion among the Chinese is that Wei Kuang-tao, being a Hunanese, will finally go to the Nanking Viceroyalty.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 9th inst. in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.
Hon. Colonel L. F. BROWN, R.E. (Senior Officer Commanding the Garrison).
Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, KNT. (Attorney-General).
Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).
Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
Hon. F. W. CLARK (Medical Officer of Health).
Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.
Hon. WEI A YUK.
Hon. C. S. SHARP.
Hon. C. W. DICKSON.
Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.
Hon. R. SHEWAN.
Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Acting Clerk of Councils).

HON. R. SHEWAN'S RE-ELECTION.

Hon. R. Shewan was re-sworn a member of the Council, having been re-elected to represent the General Chamber of Commerce.

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said—Gentlemen,—Since I last addressed you, there have been many changes in the membership of this Council, and while I have to express my regret at the loss of the able assistance

that this Council has received in its deliberations from the Members both official and Unofficial who have vacated their seats, I welcome most cordially the Honorable Members by whom they have been replaced, possessing, as they do, a high standard of legal and business capacity that commands the confidence of the community. During my visit to England I had the honour of being received in audience by the King and of bearing from His Majesty's lips his appreciation of the loyalty that has always distinguished Hongkong and of obtaining His Majesty's gracious permission for the erection of the statue proposed to be presented to the Colony by Sir Paul Chater, while His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales expressed his approval of the erection of his statue similarly offered by Mr. Bell-Irving, then a Member of this Council. The grave illness of the King on the eve of the Coronation day has happily terminated without permanent injury to His Majesty's health, and the manner in which it was borne has served intensify if that to were possible the loyal affection for the person of His Majesty among his people, who admire the kingly qualities of fortitude and courage displayed at that most trying juncture. I was glad to learn by the telegrams that Hongkong was not behind the other portions of the Empire in its demonstrations of joy at the Coronation of the King and Queen, and I hope that the King's Park then dedicated to the use of the public will in future be an open space as attractive as it will be valuable to the inhabitants of Kowloon. Under the provisions of the Treaty of Commerce arranged at Shanghai between Great Britain and China the Inland Navigation Regulations have been revised in accordance with the views put forward by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, and the Ports Kowloon on the West River and Weichow on the East River have been opened as Treaty Ports. I congratulate you on this arrangement, for which I have striven for the past three years. Some of the provisions of the Treaty have been adversely criticised on the assumption that the Chinese Government will be unable to perform the obligations accepted by them. It must, however, be apparent, that such assumption would preclude any arrangement whatever, the necessary condition preliminary to any Treaty being an assumption that each of the contracting Powers is able and willing to carry out the obligations agreed upon. The past year has been one of great importance to this Colony, for during the year careful enquiries have been made into its water-supply, its sanitary condition, its education, and its Public Works. The report on the educational system is still under consideration. That on the Public Works Department shows the necessity for an increase in the Public Works staff. Provision in the Estimates has been made for a portion of the proposed increase: the remainder is still under the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The failure of the rainfall during the year brought the question of the conservation and distribution of the Water Supply into prominence, the immediate result of which was the passing of a Ordinance dealing with the subject, under which it is hoped that waste may be checked. But apart from the prevention of waste the time has come when the collecting area must be largely increased to meet the requirements of an increasing population. How the expenditure is to be met I will explain later on. In response to representations made last year to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the services of Mr. Osbert Chadwick, the well known engineer, and Dr. W. Simpson, M.D., who has been specially employed in India and South Africa during the epidemics of Plague, were obtained to report upon the sanitary condition of Hongkong, especially in relation to plague, the annual recurrence of which in epidemic form had baffled the efforts of our Medical and Sanitary Officials. Action has already been taken upon Mr. Chadwick's exhaustive report on the Water Supply and Drainage as to which the following passage appears in Professor Simpson's reports: "With reference to the Water Supply and Sewerage they are stupendous works which the Government may well be proud of." Professor Simpson also reports that neither the scarcity of water nor the system of drainage has anything

to do with the Plague epidemic, which he attributes mainly to its propagation by rats. The joint report of those eminent experts on the question of the Housing of the Population of Hongkong shows that too many houses are crowded on too small a space; that the tenement houses are occupied by too many people, and that the design of Chinese tenement houses hitherto authorised by law is so faulty as to be in a high degree insanitary. The recommendations of these two gentlemen have been embodied in a Bill that has already been read a first time. Its provisions will involve a very large expenditure of money and the displacement of a number of people estimated at 40,000, for whom accommodation must be provided elsewhere. The ultimate reconstruction of the City on a more sanitary system must necessarily be a slow process. I have placed the sum of \$100,000 upon the Estimates for the purpose of resumption and compensation during the coming year. Apart from the defective plan of the ordinary tenement house, the lamentable loss of life caused by the collapse of newly built houses during the past summer has demonstrated the necessity of making contractors personally responsible for work that does not satisfy the requirements of the law as to quality of materials. This has been dealt with by the new Building Ordinance. While I was in London the question of the purchase of a site for a new Post Office on the Praya was submitted to the Secretary of State and on my recommendation was approved, the payment of the purchase money, \$508,000, being made out of the balance in hand. A sum of \$20,000 for the preparation of the foundations has been placed upon the Estimates and I hope that in a short time the Colony will have the benefit of this much needed improvement. The ordinary Revenue for 1903 is estimated to amount to \$4,583,295, and the ordinary Expenditure to \$4,714,501 leaving a deficit of \$131,206. In addition to this the Estimated Expenditure upon Extraordinary Public Works amounts to \$931,100, while the Estimated Revenue from land sales is \$350,000, leaving a further deficit of \$581,100. The total deficiency to be made good is therefore \$712,306. It is not expedient to raise this sum solely from additional taxation. I therefore propose, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to raise a Loan on account of certain productive Public Works, the total cost of which has been estimated by the Director of Public Works to be \$2,250,000, the Expenditure being spread over five or six years. The sum to be spent on these works in 1903 would amount to \$5,62,000 leaving a deficiency of \$150,306 to be met by additional taxation. To this amount must be added, assuming that the Loan is authorised, Interest and Sinking Fund on Loan \$25,290, Additional Military Contribution \$61,650 and a necessary surplus of \$71,004 making a total of \$308,250 to be provided.

This sum I provide in the following manner:—

Increase in Spirit Licences ..	\$173,000
Auctioneers' Licences, Billiard Tables, Chinese Undertakers, Money-Changers ..	3,000
Chinese Passenger Ships' Licences ..	1,750
Dog Licences ..	3,500
Marine Store Dealers ..	6,500
Stamp Duties, all duties other than ad valorem ..	81,000
Bills of Health ..	3,500
Registration of Deeds ..	24,000
Examination of Masters ..	3,000
Registry Fee and Survey of Steam-Ships ..	6,000
	<hr/>
	\$308,250

Those matters, with the Bills to be laid before you, I commend to your careful consideration with earnest hope that the result of your deliberations will forward the best interests of this important community, whose progressive energy has made Hongkong one of the principal ports of the World. (Applause.)

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 51 to 59) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table

the report of the Finance Committee (No. 12) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a Draft of Colonial Estimates for 1903 with explanatory Memorandum, the Public Health and Buildings Bill, the Report on the Blue-Book for 1901, and Papers on the subject of the introduction of sterling salaries into the Government service of Hongkong.

HOUSE COLLAPSES.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON asked the following question:—Is it a fact that the houses which have recently collapsed were built in accordance with the Building Ordinance in force in this Colony and were so certified by the Director of Public Works?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Certificates under Section 53 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1889 were issued in respect of the following buildings where collapses occurred:—Nos. 129 and 131, Des Voeux Road West, No. 45, Praya East, and No. 30, Kowloon City Road.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR asked:—As, in the Colonial Secretary's reply to my question at the last meeting of Council, he admitted that there were no regulations on the subject of holding enquiries into collapses of houses, and as section 6 of Ordinance 17 of 1888 only permits the Magistrate to enquire into cause of death and does not compel him to do so, I beg now to ask if the Government will either introduce a separate Ordinance dealing with the whole question or add further sub-sections to clause 228 of the new Public Health and Building Ordinance making such enquiries compulsory, to be held immediately after the occurrence and giving authority for really heavy fines, and not nominal ones, to be inflicted on all concerned.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, on the completion of the enquiry now being held the matter will be considered.

WATER ACCOUNTS.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR asked:—(1) Why the Water Accounts for January, February and March were not sent out till 25th of September? (2) With whom does the responsibility for the delay rest? (3) Is want of a sufficient staff the reason? (4) Will an assurance be given that such delays will not be permitted in future?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The replies to these questions are as follows:—I. The delay in sending out these accounts was altogether exceptional and was due to the following exceptional causes:—(1) The severe drought, which added greatly to the duties of officers engaged in connection with the water-works. (2) The visit of Mr. Chadwick, who required a great amount of information to be compiled for his use, thus further adding to the duties of the officers referred to. (3) The delinquency of a meter-reader in returning fictitious readings of meters, which caused an immense amount of trouble to rectify. II. On the head of the Department. III. Partly and partly the causes already given. IV. Steps are being taken to expedite the issue of water accounts in future.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Before we proceed farther, I think I had better announce to the Council that I have appointed the following Committees under the Standing Orders:—Finance Committee: all the members of the Legislative Council except the President, the Hon. Colonial Secretary being chairman; Law Committee: the Hon. Attorney-General (chairman), Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. C. S. Sharp and Hon. G. W. F. Playfair; Public Works Committee: Hon. W. Chatham (chairman), Hon. R. Shewan, Hon. C. W. Dickson, and Hon. Wei Yuk.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY:—

An Ordinance to amend the Tramway Ordinance, No. 10 of 1902; an Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance, 1889; an Ordinance to amend the Dogs Ordinance, 1893; an Ordinance to repeal the Land Registry Office (Fees) Amendment Ordinance No. 3 of 1844 entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Deeds, Wills, Judgments and

Conveyances affecting real or immovable property in Hongkong"; an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licences Amendment Ordinance, 1903; an Ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1901.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the COLONIAL TREASURER, the following Bill was read a first time:—A Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding four million seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars and twenty-three cents to the public service of the year 1903.

NATURALISATION BILL.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Tsan Hon Cho, otherwise known as Tsang Ming Tsai, otherwise known as Tsan Yew Wing, was read a first time, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Bill to be read a second time.

The Council afterwards went into Committee on the Bill. On re-summing, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Council adjourned till Monday, 20th inst.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

MARINE EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$400 in aid of the vote of \$1,800, "Government Marine Surveyor, other Charges, Coal, Oil, and Repairs to Steam-launch."

The CHAIRMAN said this vote was rendered necessary by the greater distances which the marine surveyor's launches had to travel.

The recommendation was approved.

MEDICAL CHARGES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$6,130 in aid of the following votes under the heading "Medical Departments, other Charges":—Health Officer of Port—

Coal, &c., for launch ..	\$100.00
Repairs to launch ..	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$350.00

Government Civil Hospital—

Provisions for patients ..	\$4,800.00
Medical comforts ..	270.00
Incidental expenses, &c., ..	250.00
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	5,320.00

Government Lunatic Asylums—

Provisions, &c.	\$300.00
	<hr/>
	300.00

Government Nursing Institute—

Fuel and Light ..	\$160.00
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	160.00

Total \$6,130.00

The CHAIRMAN remarked that with reference to the first item there had been more infected ports and therefore more coal used. Under the head "Government Civil Hospital" the increase was occasioned by there being more patients in Hospital this year and also by there being 28 more beds in Hospital. Under "Lunatic Asylum" there were more European patients and under "Government Nursing Institute" there were two extra Sisters brought out for the Plague Hospital at Kennedy Town.

The vote was agreed to.

BACTERIOLOGICAL HORSES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$635 to cover the initial cost, \$290, and upkeep for three months of the current year, \$345, of four horses for the preparation of anti-plague serum by the Government Bacteriologist.

The CHAIRMAN explained that this serum was in anticipation of the plague next year.

The vote was passed.

CORONATION ILLUMINATIONS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$517.45, in aid of the vote of \$3,600 taken under Financial Minute No. 17 of 1902, being cost incurred for illuminating certain public buildings in connection with Coronation celebrations in the Colony.

The CHAIRMAN said that the excess here

was due to the postponement of the illuminations.

The vote was agreed to.

BONUS TO DR. LOWSON.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of £500, being the amount of a bonus for good service proposed to be granted to Dr. J. A. Lowson, on his retirement through ill-health.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter with reference to this vote from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who expressed his appreciation of the energy and devotion with which Dr. Lowson had served the Colony.

The recommendation was adopted.

HONORARIUM TO DR. CHUNG.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$50 as an honorarium to Dr. Chung King-ue in consideration of the faithful services rendered by him to the Government and the community as House Surgeon to the Tung Wah Hospital, which services had been terminated by serious sickness.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Dr. Chung had been obliged to retire owing to consumption: he was in poor circumstances and had a wife and family; therefore the Council were asked to vote this comparatively small sum for his assistance.

The vote was approved.

VICTORIA GAOL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$800 in aid of the vote of \$3,600 for "Fuel and Soap for Victoria Gaol."

This vote was also approved.

FIRE BRIGADE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,100 in aid of the vote of \$3,060, "Repairs to Engines, Hose, &c., and Gratuities, Fire Brigade."

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that this vote was due to the large expenditure of coal used in the engines, there being no water in the mains during the long water famine; and also for coolie hire in dragging the engines to the scene of operations.

The vote was sanctioned.

THE GOVERNOR'S PEAK RESIDENCE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,000 for the purchase of new furniture for "Mountain Lodge" Government House for the current year.

The CHAIRMAN said this was a new house, and it was necessary to furnish it.

The vote was agreed to.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR—Have you got beside you, sir, the totals of all these financial amounts from the beginning of the year, because I understand they are all extra on last year's estimates.

The CHAIRMAN—I have not got them beside me.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR—Can they be given to us at next meeting?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

This was all the business.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

HONGKONG BRANCH—ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held on the 6th inst. in the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall. Hon. G. W. F. Playfair, chairman, presided, and there were also present Hon. C. S. Sharp, Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs. H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, W. Poate, G. H. Medhurst (committee), C. Pemberton (hon. secretary), A. J. David, E. Shellim, W. J. Saunders, F. Maitland, G. C. Anderson, J. R. Michael, Gershom Stewart, E. W. Mitchell and J. H. Lewis.

The HON. SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, before reading the report I may be permitted to preface it with a few remarks. Although this Branch of the Association has not been much in evidence to the general public and may thereby have given rise in some quarters to doubts as to its effectiveness or of its being of any service to British interests out here, I can assure you that it has, nevertheless, been constantly on the look-out (a reference to the appendix will prove this) and has been doing not a little work which can be more effectively done than if gone about in the full glare of publicity.

No opportunity has been allowed to pass of intervening in favour of British interests whenever representations seemed likely to be of any avail. The committee therefore feel that although they have not been much before the public, this branch of the Association has been actively and continuously at work and has, with some amount of success, striven to fill the place which such Association, with great interests, ought to take up. In this connection I might read you the following extract from a letter received only this morning from the Secretary of the Association in London; he says:—"Not only have your protests been promptly forwarded to the Foreign Office, but we have evidence that they have been acted upon." (Applause.) It, no doubt, has occurred to some of you to wonder why a meeting of the Association was not convened in March/April to consider Sir James Mackay's proposals, but in the first place, owing probably to a change in the Secretaryship in London, we were not communicated with at the same time the Shanghai branch was, and when we were communicated with we had such a lesson before us in the absence of anything like unanimity in the northern port that your committee in the exercise of what they deemed a wise discretion refrained from adding to the general confusion, as, by that time, it was pretty plain to them that Sir James Mackay's ideas in one form or another held the field and that no better proposals had been or were likely to be brought forward. But, as the experience of the past has shown us, it will always be necessary for the British Government and British Government officials to see that treaties are fulfilled in the spirit as well as apparently in the letter. I think a special word of thanks is due to Sir James Mackay, who brought to bear a rich store of commercial intelligence and acumen on the necessarily difficult task of reconciling conflicting interests. In the report you will find a well merited acknowledgment of the service of His Majesty's representative in Canton, Consul-General James Scott: it is satisfactory to record a welcome change in affairs. If British interests in China had always been served by men of his type we would not have had so many a coach and four driven through our Treaties until our diplomacy had become a byword and British merchants in China had almost sunk into the apathy of despair of ever seeing British officials stand up for treaty rights and obligations. While the Consular officials may be termed the official watch dogs of British interests in China, this Association may be termed the unofficial watch dog to sound the alarm in case the official watch dogs have been asleep or have not made their warnings sufficiently heard in London. The fact is, public opinion has to keep stirring up the Powers that be in order to get things put through and some help afforded to British trade against Chinese obstructiveness and exaction. The British merchant simply wants a fair field and no favour and that the British Government should stand by and see that he gets fair play. While on this subject we would like to express our pleasure at seeing the increasing number of M.P.'s who are making China and Chinese affairs a study and coming out here to see and hear for themselves so that they will be able to turn their knowledge to account in the House of Commons and prevent British interests being neglected as they so often have been in the past. It is only by unceasing vigilance and prompting that even the best Governments are kept up to the scratch. (Applause.)

The report is as follows:—

Owing to the unexpected and lamented death of your late Chairman, Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., in the autumn of 1901, no report was issued by this Branch of the Association for that year, but members were able to see the correspondence carried on, as it was published in the report of the London Association, copies of which were distributed in the spring. The committee intend therefore to confine this review to the past twelve months.

THE NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH CHINA.

In the autumn of 1901 the Foreign Office made a rather unusual but commendable departure in the appointment of a well-known commercial man, Sir James Lyle Mackay, K.C.S.I., as Special Commissioner to negotiate the new Commercial Treaty with China, and although some adverse criticism was indulged

in and complaints made that an Indian experience was not a necessary qualification for such a post, yet the committee think that the general consensus of opinion would now admit that he was amply qualified for the position, assisted as he was by one of the ablest of the Shanghai mercantile body and a most capable member of the Consular staff. Sir James Mackay speedily discovered that firmness combined with infinite patience formed the most important requisite in the conduct of negotiations with Chinese officials. The Commissioner came to China with an open mind, and at once set himself diligently to work to learn facts, find out commercial wants, and take the opinions of those on the spot most competent to express them. Having collected a mass of information and thoroughly posted himself on the various questions affecting trade, he set to work to formulate a treaty which would free foreign trade from the restrictions that now hamper it, and by yielding a large revenue from an increased duty, also prove acceptable to the Chinese. After much consideration, he accordingly proposed the abolition of *lekin* and all other inland taxation on foreign goods with certain modifications in the taxation of native goods; the Imperial Maritime Customs to be allowed to collect in lieu thereof a surtax of one and a half times the import duty, making an estimated import duty of 12½ per cent., instead of the 5 per cent. hitherto imposed. Out of the surtax the provincial Governments are to receive compensation for the loss of *lekin*, the collection of which has always been costly and wasteful. If this arrangement be adhered to, the provincial administrations will certainly profit largely, and it is hoped that, in consideration of the fact, no attempt will be made to revive *lekin* under another name. It will, of course, be the duty of His Majesty's Consuls to jealously watch the course of affairs when the provisions of the Treaty come into force and to see that no attempt is made to nullify the abolition of this ancient exaction.

RELATIONS WITH THE LONDON OFFICE.

During the past year a great deal of correspondence has been received and despatched, part of which is appended to this report. Much of it, however, is more or less confidential, and cannot therefore be published, but the file is open for the inspection of individual members. The Committee have not hesitated to urge, both by wire and by letter, upon the London Office of the Association the importance of making strong representations to the Foreign Office on various points, and they have reason to think that such representations have proved more or less successful. In any case it seems to the Committee that the Foreign Office have paid attention to matters urged by them through the Association in London.

TRANSFER OF COLLECTORATE OF NATIVE TO FOREIGN CUSTOMS.

As will be seen by reference to the appendix, your Committee found it necessary to telegraph a strong protest against the delay of the Hopo (or Superintendent of the Native Customs) at Canton in transferring the collectorate of these Customs dues to the Imperial Maritime Customs. The transfer has been effected since, with excellent results, the differential duties formerly accorded to junks having now ceased, and cargo which had been diverted from foreign steamers on the river now finding its way into normal channels.

ATTEMPTED INCREASE IN TAXES ON OPIUM.

In April last, the attempt by the Canton authorities to impose an additional tax on foreign opium, amounting practically to an increase of 100 per cent., which was to come into operation in May, received the attention of the Committee, who addressed a strong protest by wire on the subject to the London Association. The result of this and other representations by the Chamber of Commerce and the opium hong led to the introduction of the proposed tax being postponed until July. A further message was despatched to London by the Committee in August, and the question is still under consideration. Meantime some shipments of opium have been returned to Hongkong from Canton and Swatow pending settlement of this important question. The action of the native authorities at these two ports being a glaring violation of treaty stipulations, brought about for the time being a stoppage of the imports thereof of foreign opium. This serious infraction of

treaty rights is a matter calling for the most energetic action on the part of H. M. Government.

THE LEKIN-FREE AREA IN CANTON.

In consequence of the denial by the Viceroy of the Two Kwang of the privilege of a lekin-free area in Canton as provided for in the existing treaties, an urgent telegraphic communication to the China Association, London, was made on the 11th July last, and the Committee are glad to say that His Excellency the Viceroy has since, doubtless under instructions from Peking, receded from that position, and has issued a fresh proclamation on the subject, conceding the point.

A MERITED ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Committee have been much impressed with and have great pleasure in here recording their high appreciation of the able and energetic manner in which British interests at Canton have been protected and promoted by His Majesty's present Representative at that port, Consul-General James Scott. Mr. Scott has, undoubtedly, by his vigilance, promptitude, and firmness effectively championed British interests.

THE LATE CHAIRMAN.

The Committee have to deplore the sudden and unexpected decease of their late Chairman, Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., while on a trip to Japan in 1901. Mr. Francis, who had presided over this branch for several years, did excellent service during that period, his long experience of affairs in the Far East, his legal acumen, and his ready pen enabling him to handle the questions coming before the Association with the utmost facility and with marked success.

THE COMMITTEE.

The committee, after various changes, now consists of the following members:—Hon. Geo. W. F. Playfair (Chairman), Hon. C. S. Sharp, Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, G. H. Medhurst, H. E. Tomkins, W. Poate, and C. Pemberton (Hon. Secretary).

THE ACCOUNTS.

The accounts of the Hon. Secretary, which are annexed to the report, show credit balances as follows:—1900, \$609.89; 1901, \$314.81; 1902, \$879.61.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MAITLAND, the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The only other item of business was the election of a committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. STEWART moved the reappointment of the present members. He was sure that they would perform the duties of their office as satisfactorily in the coming year as in the past.

Mr. W. J. SAUNDERS seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

This was all the business.

GARRISON CHANGES IN HONGKONG.

ARRIVAL OF THE DERBYSHIRE REGIMENT.

The 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Derbyshire Regiment), which comes to Hongkong to relieve the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, arrived in the Colony on the 8th inst. from South Africa on board the transport *Wakool*. They landed at the Commissariat Pier, were met by the band of the R.W.F., and afterwards marched to their quarters at Murray Barracks, which the Fusiliers had vacated in view of their arrival. The Derbyshires have seen some active service in South Africa, and show it by their appearance, being a fine, well set-up body of men. The Regiment is at low strength just now as the result of its recent experiences. They number only some 600 all told. It is understood that only about 150 men will stay in Hongkong in the meantime, the rest going to the North in a few days when the *Wakool* has undergone some necessary repairs. From Cape Town, which was left on the 8th ult., the Regiment had a very pleasant passage on the whole, though the weather during the first fortnight was a bit rough. Their only call between Cape Town and Hongkong was at Singapore, a break in the voyage which was very much appreciated by all after the long trip across the ocean. A talk with several members of the Regiment shows that they are favourably struck with Hongkong, so far at least as first impressions are concerned. The Derbyshires are a historic old

regiment; their uniform is scarlet with white facings, and their badge a united red and white rose, emblematic of the Wars of the Roses. The regimental honours show the following list:—Louisburg, Roleir, Vimiers, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsular, Ava, South Africa, 1816-7, Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol, Central India, Abyssinia, Egypt 1882, Tirah, and lastly South Africa. Lieut-Col. Wyllie, C.B., is in command. Captain Thomas H. M. Green, D.S.O., is second in command, and the other officers accompanying the corps are Captain Rudolph H. Keller, D.S.O., Adjt. Captain Lionel St. H. Morley, Captain Philip F. R. Anley, Captain James F. R. Ritchie, Lieut. Charles D. M. Harrington, Lieut. John H. Wybergh, Lieut. William W. Friend, Lieut. Gaspard F. de Pledge, Lieut. Bernard W. Paul, and Lieut. Edgar N. T. Collin.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers go to India, shortly, as we have already announced.

THE HONGKONG REGIMENT'S DEPARTURE.

H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., made his final inspection of the Hongkong Regiment on the Football Ground at Happy Valley yesterday at 4.30 p.m., prior to their departure for India to be disbanded. The following is a detail of the parade:—The Regiment will be drawn up in line ready to troop the Colour and will receive H.E. the Governor with a general salute. After inspection by H.E. the Regimental Colour will be trooped and the Regiment will then march past in column in slow and quick time, finally advancing in review order and giving a general salute. The ceremony of trooping the Colour dates from the last century and is said to have been introduced by the Prince Regent to test the sobriety of his officers on morning parade. It will be commenced on this occasion by the Band playing a troop from right to left of the line, turning about when near the Regimental Colour and returning to the right playing a "quick march." The right company of the line as escort to the Colour will then, preceded by the Band playing "The British Grenadiers," be marched to the Colour and having been halted at company distance from the Colour the following ceremony will take place. The Sergeant-Major with his sword drawn will advance by the left flank to the front, receive the Colour and return towards the escort. The lieutenant for the Colour will at the same time move out four paces in front of the Commander of the escort, passing by his right, and, having saluted the Colour as the Sergeant-Major brings it up to him and then returned his sword, will receive the Colour, place it in his belt and turn about. The escort will be ordered to "Present Arms" the Sergeant-Major saluting, the Sergeants on the flanks of the escort turning outwards and coming to the ready and the sentries presenting arms. The Colour will then be marched along the front of the line, being received by the Regiment with a "Present," the escort passing between the ranks until its original place is reached when it will be halted, turned in the same direction as the Regiment is facing and directed to "Present arms." The ceremony then concludes with a march past as above described.

In connection with the Colours it will be remembered in 1899 while being taken under escort to Taipo to form a guard of honour for the present Governor on the occasion of the hoisting of the British flag in the New Territory the party which was under the command of Capt. Berger, was fired upon by large crowds of Chinese rowdies in position on the hills round Taipo. As the Colours were immediately unfurled and held flying during the little action which followed they have a right to be considered the first British flags hoisted in the New Territory.

The following telegram, dated London, 24th September, was sent to Bangkok, but not to Hongkong:—Reuter's Agency is informed that Great Britain has taken no action whatsoever giving any colour to the report of an occupation of Kelantan. Neither the British nor the Indian Government has anything to do with the Sultan's engagement of Sikhs.

THE FIRE AT AMOY.

FURTHER DETAILS.

On the 7th inst. the Douglas Steamship Co.'s s.s. *Haiching* arrived in Hongkong, bringing the first mail news of the serious conflagration which had occurred at Amoy. The telegraphic news so far has not been of a complete description by any means, and we suppose we must wait for other arrivals from Amoy before the full story is forthcoming, for the *Haiching* brings little that has not been at least foreshadowed in our telegraphic service. It seems that the conflagration, though serious enough in all conscience, has not proved so serious as the first messages would have led us to suppose. By these we were led to understand that something like 2,000 houses and shops had been destroyed by the flames. It appears that 800 is, as near as possible, the number implicated. When the *Haiching* arrived in Amoy on Saturday morning, the ruins of the devastated portion were still smoking, and shortly before the vessel sailed there was a recrudescence of the blaze, caused, apparently, by the fall of houses and walls. It is said that the fire originated in a native temple. When the outbreak occurred the wind was blowing towards the harbour. The only vessels in port were the *Wenchow* and the *Newchwang*. The captains, officers and crews of these two steamers went on shore to assist in the subduing of the flames. They worked arduously, according to our informant, but owing to the direction of the wind were unable to keep the conflagration from getting a hold upon the buildings on the Bund. Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik & Co.'s, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s, and Messrs. Danver & Co.'s premises on the Bund were saved from destruction only by the strenuous efforts of the Europeans who had landed to help to extinguish the flames. We regret to state that Captain Fife of the *Wenchow* was killed while heroically engaged in this perilous work; a smouldering wall fell upon him and he was killed on the spot. The remains of the burnt houses, which included a large Chinese tea-hong on the Bund, were smoking heavily when the *Haiching* left Amoy on Saturday night. At that time, the damage had not been assessed, but it must amount to many thousands if not millions of dollars. The owners of the Chinese hongs on the water-front took the precaution, when they saw the fire approaching, of shifting their household goods and properties into cargo-boats which they pushed off into mid-stream.

HORRIBLE CRUELTY TO A GIRL.

Paralysed and broken, body and spirit, such is the lamentable condition of a poor little twelve-year-old Chinese girl now lying in the Government Civil Hospital, who, it is alleged, has been subjected to undreamt of cruelty at the hands of her master and mistress, both of whom are in the custody of the police and will be charged at the Magistracy before Mr. F. A. Hazeland next on the 11th inst. An anonymous letter to the Registrar-General gave the first inkling, and a visit to the house indicated in the letter, 364, Queen's Road, disclosed the whole terrible affair. The story, as told to the police, is in effect as follows:—About six years ago the girl, who, as we have said, is now in her twelfth year, was brought down from the interior, and handed over to the "care" of the two prisoners; since then her life has been made one long torture. Some time ago, the girl's hands were bound behind her back and she was slung to the roof of a cubicle by a rope fastened to her wrists. In this helpless state she was allowed to hang, our representative was informed, from nine o'clock at night till seven o'clock next morning. One result of this ill-usage is a paralysed arm. More recently the woman tore handfuls of hair out of her victim's head, and this act was followed by more barbarous treatment still. With a pair of scissors she was stabbed sixty times on the body, cut over the ankles—"hamstrung," almost—with a long knife, and beaten across the back with a rattan cane. The final torture, which was inflicted a short time before the arrest was effected, was equally shocking. With two "joss" papers saturated with kerosene, the woman burned the girl's arms and

wrists, leaving the limbs of the poor victim in a fearful state.

On the 4th inst. the male defendant was charged, and remanded for a week, when he and the female prisoner will be placed in the dock. Mr. J. S. Harston, solicitor, appeared on their behalf, and asked that bail be allowed; his clients were willing to put up \$3,000, he said. Inspector Gidley informed his Worship that he had been instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Acting Crown Solicitor, to oppose any application for bail. His Worship accordingly refused to allow it.

Mr. Harston said the woman was in a weak state of health, and ought to be allowed out on bail so that she could have medical attendance, to which his Worship replied that there was medical attendance in the gaol.

PONTIFICAL JUBILEE OF POPE LEO XIII.

CELEBRATION IN HONGKONG.

The Roman Catholic community of Hongkong celebrated on the 4th inst. the Pontifical Jubilee of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. Leo XIII, who is 92 years old, has now reigned at the head of the Roman Church for twenty-five years, and has proved to be one of the wisest and most popular of Popes, and is thus highly regarded not only by the Roman Catholics in all parts of the world, but also by the principal crowned heads of Europe, having more than once acted successfully as arbitrator in many knotty political questions.

On the 4th inst. was not the actual day of the Jubilee, but it was the day appointed for celebration in Hongkong. The service commenced at 8 a.m. by a Pontifical High Mass at the Roman Catholic Cathedral. His Lordship Bishop Piazzoli officiated, assisted by all the clergy, the service being attended by a very large congregation. The sermon was eloquently preached by the Rev. A. M. Alves, S.J., who came over from Macao for the purpose. The musical portion of the service was under the charge of the Cathedral organist, Mr. O. Baptista, and the choir had the assistance of an orchestra composed entirely of amateurs. The interior of the Cathedral was very tastefully decorated with plants and choice cut flowers. In the afternoon the service started at 4.30 o'clock, and consisted of the recitation and singing of the Rosary—yesterday being also the feast of the Holy Rosary—followed by another sermon by the same preacher, *Te Deum*, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The attendance at the afternoon service was also numerous. In the evening Bishop Piazzoli held a reception in the hall of the Catholic Union at Gleanealy, which was specially decorated for the occasion. By kind permission of the officers of the 33rd Burma Infantry, their Band was present, and enlivened the proceedings by playing an excellent selection of music. The Cathedral and compound were gaily illuminated with Japanese lanterns. Besides the Cathedral, the Catholic Union, the Spanish and French mission houses in Caine Road, St. Joseph's College, the Italian convent, and the French convent at Praya East, several private residences were also beautifully lit up with Japanese lanterns, the sight from the harbour front being remarkably fine.

Le Courrier Saigonnais states that a correspondent of *La Patrie*, hearing that M. Dutasta, the French Chargé d'Affaires in Bangkok during the absence of M. Klobukowski, had asked for his immediate recall in view of the grave nature of the situation, interviewed M. Deloncle, who amongst other things said: "I do not as yet know what truth there is in the report of the demand for his recalls by M. Dutasta. It is certain, however, that the actual state of affairs with Siam is really pressing. We are, however, not the only ones to suffer from the present state of Siamese feeling, because the English as well have a bone to pick with them in their zone of influence in the Malay Peninsula. Knowing the Siamese, I am much afraid therefore that all these conversations (between the Siamese Ministers and the French) may be only so much time lost, and that we shall have finally to have recourse to other means, not only to make them respect the Treaties of 1892 and 1893, but to prevent the Siamese violating our own territories."

ENQUIRIES INTO COLLAPSE OF HOUSES.

FIRST STREET—CONTRACTOR COMMITTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

As we intimated in our "Express" on the 4th inst., the official enquiry into the fatal collapse at 56, First Street on 29th July last ended in the contractor, Tak Kee, being committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

Addressing the jury, Mr. Goldring said they were there to enquire into the death of the man Wong Fook at No. 56, First Street. That his death was caused by the collapse of the second floor kitchen in that house there could be no reasonable doubt, and it would be the duty of the jury to decide whether any person was guilty of such gross and culpable negligence as to render him liable to be put upon his trial for the crime of manslaughter. After submitting that the whole question turned upon two things, (1) whether negligence existed at all, and (2) whether, if it did exist it was so gross as to be reckless. Mr. Goldring proceeded to review the evidence. He was concerned, he said, principally for the contractor, and he thought there was nothing in the evidence adduced to prove that his client had been guilty of criminal negligence. If there was any doubt in the minds of the jury as to the liability of the contractor, it was their duty to give him the benefit of the doubt, and to bring in a verdict in his favour. One point which had to be decided was whether the kitchen floor or the wall fell first, and in that connection Mr. Goldring was of opinion that the evidence went to prove that the kitchen floor was the first to collapse.

Mr. Dennys interrupted to say that the evidence was all the other way—that the wall fell first.

Mr. Goldring submitted that not much reliance could be placed on the evidence to that effect. If the kitchen floor really fell first, then he did not see how the jury could blame anybody at all, unless they chose to attach blame to the Public Works Department for not carrying out a systematic inspection of old buildings. Negligence, if there was any, lay with the people who ought to have inspected the premises, but who did not do so and allowed them to get into a dangerous condition. Therefore, continued Mr. Goldring, the fault lay with the Government; there were not sufficient people or hands available to inspect all these houses, and he was of opinion that something ought to be done to remedy that defect. He did not think that with regard to the collapsed wall it had been proved there had been any defects in it, for nobody saw the wall before the collapse occurred except the contractor, who, when he noticed the typhoon signal, put up shoring to prevent possible accidents. Was that the act of a man guilty of culpable negligence? No; the contractor had taken sufficient precautions, and could not be held liable for what subsequently occurred. Having regard to the whole facts of the case, concluded Mr. Goldring, he did not see how the jury could possibly find anyone culpable, unless they thought that the conduct of the inspector of buildings who took a run down to the premises and went away again was sufficiently reckless to amount to manslaughter.

Mr. Dennys then proceeded to sum up. After impressing upon the jury the gravity of the enquiry, he said his friend had pointed out that if they had any doubt in their minds as to the culpability of anybody, it was their duty to give him the benefit of the doubt and dismiss him. That was not the position of the jury at all. They had simply to consider whether any one was guilty of culpable negligence, and if their finding was to that effect it would be the duty of the magistrate to commit that person for trial at the Supreme Court. The Attorney-General of this Colony, as filling the position of a grand jury in England, would then say whether or not he would indict that person for the crime of manslaughter. Proceeding, Mr. Dennys put it to the jury that on the evidence there could be no reasonable doubt that the wall of No. 56, First Street fell first and caused the collapse of the second floor kitchen and through it the death of Wong Fook. It had been clearly shown in the evidence that the joists, though old, were perfectly good, and that the fall of the second floor

kitchen was, as stated, in consequence of the collapse of the wall. Why, then, did the wall fall down? Mr. Dennys put it to the jury that it fell directly in consequence of its having lost the support it formerly had from 58, First Street, and Nos. 27 to 33, Centre Street, by the pulling down of these houses. That being so the jury would have to consider whether there was anybody upon whom the duty was cast of protecting the lives of the people living in No. 56, and if they found that there was such a person, it would be for them further to consider who that person was. As far as he was concerned, he would submit that the inspector of buildings was not in any way liable; it would be highly absurd to expect any man in the Public Works Department to go round and inspect every single building in the Colony. If the attention of the inspector of buildings was called to any old building, and he saw that something should be done, he would report to the Director of Public Works, and a notice would be served on the owner to pull down the wall or to do whatever was necessary. So far, then, as the inspector of buildings was concerned, Mr. Dennys did not think that the jury would have much trouble in dismissing him from consideration in the enquiry. With reference to the architect, the jury would probably come to the conclusion that his plans did not properly represent the position and levels of the surrounding ground and buildings, and that they ought to have done so, under the Ordinance. But that defect, the jury would also doubtless decide, was not the immediate cause of the accident, and on that point the law said that in a case of manslaughter the death must be brought about by the immediate failure of the person responsible to discharge a certain duty. As to others upon whom responsibility might be placed, the owners—the majority of whom were women—were not resident in the Colony, and neither was Pau Chau, the agent, so that no explanation was obtainable from them as to their positions in the matter. No blame could reasonably attach to Ip Tuk, the lessee, but, bearing the evidence in mind, there could be no possible doubt that upon Tak Kee, the contractor, was cast the duty of protecting the lives of the people in No. 56, and whether other people were liable or not would make no difference in his liability. After quoting *Stephens on Crime*, Mr. Dennys reiterated that the jury had simply to decide whether or not a *prima facie* case had been made out against the contractor, and if in their opinion it had, then he should be put upon his trial before a jury in the Supreme Court. The duty of protecting the people in No. 56 might have been discharged in various ways—by turning the people out and pulling the wall down and properly rebuilding it, or by giving it that support of which he deprived it when he pulled down the party wall between No. 56, First Street and the houses in Centre Street. Mr. Dennys concluded by reminding the jury that they were not trying the man; they were simply the judges of whether or not a *prima facie* case had been made out against him, such a case as ought to be tried before a jury at the Supreme Court.

His Worship read extracts from recognised text-books to aid the jury in arriving at a decision, and said the two questions for them to settle were—(1) Was the death of the deceased, Wong Fook, due to criminal negligence? and (2) what person or persons were guilty of such criminal negligence? They could add any riders they liked.

The jury retired, and after an absence of about five minutes returned into Court, when the foreman announced that they were unanimous in deciding that the death of Wong Fook was due to criminal negligence, and that Tak Kee, the contractor, was the guilty person. A rider was added that the jury were of opinion also that the Government had neglected its duty.

Tak Kee was then formally committed for trial at the Supreme Court on a charge of manslaughter. Bail was allowed of \$5,000, in two sureties of \$2,500 each.

KOWLOON CITY ROAD.

The official enquiry into the fatal collapse of Nos. 30 and 32, Kowloon City Road on 18th July last was resumed on the 7th inst. before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a common jury. Mr. H. W.

Looker appeared on behalf of the architects, Messrs. Leigh and Orange, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson of the contractor, Loong Cheong.

Mr. R. K. Leigh again went into the witness-box, and was examined by Mr. Looker as to the three qualities of Canton red brick already mentioned by him; their names, prices, and respective uses he specified. Witness had never known of Amoy bricks being used in the building of Chinese houses. Under section 10 of Ordinance 25 of 1891 there was a reference to black bricks for use in the two uppermost stories; these black bricks were the blue bricks witness had already spoken of. The section had since been amended, and now permitted the use of blue brick in the uppermost story only. Prior to sixteen years ago, there was no other brick in the Colony except blue brick. Loong Cheong, the contractor, had done other work for witness's firm, including the Pek Hotel, Dr. Renny's house, Victoria Lodge, three large godowns for the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., and a large number of Chinese houses. Witness considered Andersen, the overseer, to be a very fair overseer, as overseers went. There was usually no getting of good overseers in the Colony; they had to be brought out from home. Andersen could easily supervise the houses under his care, witness was of opinion, because the work was not going on in all of these houses at the same time. There probably would not be more than nine or ten places where work was going on daily, and that could easily be looked after. Witness himself inspected the houses twice a week; his commission only included general superintendence. The ordinary five per cent. commission, both here and at home, covered general superintendence only, and that was the rate of commission witness was being paid for the houses in question. In England, on work of this description, an architect would be considered to have done very well if he visited the houses twice a month. The architect, when he paid these visits, was supposed to see that the work was proceeding in accordance with the plans and specifications. It was not possible, nor was it his duty, on these occasions to go thoroughly into every little detail of the construction and specification; if such were the case, he could only do one work at a time, as he would have to be on the job from daylight till dark. No overseer would then be required. In comparison with contractors in England, the contractors here were not so good, and were far more difficult to deal with. It was the same in the case of the workmen—those here were not so good. Most of the material, too, was inferior, and as a general rule one had to build with what labour and material were at hand. Witness had visited the houses in Kowloon City Road since last he was in the witness box, and found one set of shoring at the back of No. 60; it was useless shoring, and was doing no work. Witness had also been in the whole fifteen houses on K.I.L. 1,107, and saw a crack in the back portion of the party wall between Nos. 6 and 8, and also a crack in the back of that between Nos. 14 and 16; the cracks were not serious, and would not necessitate rebuilding. No other cracks worth speaking of were visible. Except the two end houses, Nos. 2 and 30, none of the houses were seriously damaged. Witness's experience of this year showed him that something would have to be done to keep the wet out of external walls. The thirteen remaining houses on the lot were in no way dangerous, and in witness's opinion were stronger and better built than the majority of Chinese houses. Previous to the enquiry he had had some consultations with the Acting Crown Solicitor, and spent the best part of two days furnishing him with particulars. A typhoon signal was up at the time of the collapse shortly before six o'clock on the afternoon of 18th July. Witness quoted from meteorological reports to show the state of the weather on that day, and said there was no doubt that the typhoon was the ultimate cause of the collapse; he attributed the primary cause to the wet getting in and softening the joints of the brickwork in the external wall. This was caused by the excessive and continuous rainfall combined with wind. It made a difference in the effect of rain upon a wall if that rain was not accompanied by wind, be-

cause, if the rain fell vertically, it did not wet the external walls. Witness here proceeded to read from the weather reports and the published list in the *Government Gazette* of collapses during the present year. By the weather reports it was shown that the wind velocity in June and July was the strongest in ten years. In witness's opinion it could easily be seen that the weather and the collapses were closely connected. The rain started on 8th May and the first collapse occurred on 11th May; the last collapse came on 12th August, on which day the rain stopped. Since then there had been another collapse, not, however, due to the weather. There was what might be termed a typhoon period of three months, which coincided with the three months of rain. During the three months under review there were only 18 days without rain, and on these days there was practically no sunshine and the humidity was great. In that period there had been three typhoons—on 12th July, 18th July, and 2nd August. Mr. Leigh further proceeded to quote extensively from the meteorological and collapse reports, and pointed out that from 18th July to 12th August there had been 66 collapses. In his 22 years' experience there had never been anything approaching this record, and he thought that five collapses a year would be about the average. None had occurred in any completed and occupied house of his before this year, and he had had no reasons for taking other than the usual precautions to keep the wet out of the walls of Chinese houses. Apart from the list in the *Gazette*, a very large number of houses had been more or less seriously damaged owing to the wind and rain. There was an instance behind him, twenty yards or so away, in the compound of Victoria Goal, where the back wall of a cookhouse had fallen down. The unrecorded collapses included European as well as Chinese houses, and numbered about 250. Had there been a further ten days' or a fortnight's wind and rain after 12th August, witness should say that hundreds more houses would have collapsed; from day to day he saw walls cracking in all directions. The remedy for all this was to protect the external walls from the wet getting in; apart from that, he considered the provisions of the Building Ordinance quite sufficient for the purposes of public safety.

By Mr. Wilkinson—In witness's opinion, Loong Cheong was one of the best contractors in the Colony; that opinion was based upon his experience of him in the work previously mentioned. That experience extended over a number of years. All the walls in blocks 1,107 and 1,108 were of the same manner and material, both those that had developed cracks since the collapse and those that were sound. It was customary, both here and in England, for a contractor to have more than one job on at the same time, and he was not expected to be on one job always.

Mr. Denny—Do you say that the party walls on blocks 1,107 and 1,108, which you have said are cracked, are safe, sound, and substantial?—I do.

During the 22 years you have been in Hong-kong, there have always been a rainy season and a typhoon season?—Yes.

What would you call the rainy season?—From early in May till the end of September.

And the typhoon season?—About the same.

The Cochrane Street collapse last year, witness continued, took place during the heavy rains. No. 131, Des Vœux Road West, which collapsed, according to the *Gazette*, on 2nd August, was built under the supervision of Messrs. Leigh & Orange's architects, and was completed in November, 1900. That, however, was not a house collapse, only the top of the front wall and the verandah columns falling. In witness's opinion, they were knocked down by the collapse of a similar portion of No. 129. No. 45, Praya East, also mentioned in the list of collapses, was another house built under the supervision of witness's firm, and was completed in February, 1901. Nos. 30, Kowloon City Road, 131, Des Vœux Road, and 45, Praya East were not almost the only houses in the list that were new and completed houses and that had yet fallen down; there were a few others. As to No. 131, Des Vœux Road West witness would not say that the wet had nothing to do with the

accident there, and he could not say whether or not the mortar had squeezed out. The accident to No. 45, Praya East he attributed to the same causes as in the case of No. 31, Kowloon City Road; in this case the mortar had squeezed up. All houses built by witness were put with the intention of withstanding the typhoons and the heavy rains.

The enquiry being resumed after lunch, witness stated that so far as he knew no tie-rods had been erected across any of the houses on lots 1107 or 1108 since their completion. As to the inspection of a job, witness considered that it was the duty of the overseer to be on the work during the time that it was being carried on, though not necessarily continuously and as for the contractor, he should either personally or through a responsible foreman see to the proper carrying out of the work. Witness presumed that the shoring at No. 60 (which he had stated to be useless and doing no work) was put up by the contractor. That, witness said, was not like the work of a competent and good contractor. The fact, however, that it was of no use and doing no work showed that it was not required. Shoring work was not generally done by contractors; it was the special work of, witness thought, only two firms in the Colony. The reason that witness spent nearly two days in the Crown Solicitor's office giving him particulars was to lend him every assistance in the enquiry. He thought that from May, 1901, till May, 1902, from 600 to 1,000 houses were finished and completed; of these houses, so far as he knew, only one besides those which he built came down. Referring to the effect of the weather upon a wall, witness said it was a well-known fact that a dry brick would stand a great deal more pressure than a wet one.

The whole of Wednesday and half of the forenoon of Thursday was taken up in the continued reading of the evidence of Mr. R. K. Leigh, who was also asked one or two additional questions, one, by Mr. Denny, as follows:—

Did the owners restrict you as to the design or specification of these buildings on Lot 1,107?—Not in any way.

Tam A Ling, contractor, 56, Wellington Street, said he was one of the two partners in the Loong Cheong firm, and was originally a carpenter by trade. His partner, Ng Leung, was also a carpenter. For eight or nine years witness had been carrying on the business of a general contractor, in partnership with Ng Leung. He tendered for the thirty houses on K.I. Lots 1,107 and 1,108 for the sum of \$88,000, and when Mr. Leigh told him that twenty more houses were wanted, he signed a contract for the lot for \$145,000. Before fixing the price, witness calculated what the cost of labour and material would be. The calculations were in writing.

Mr. Denny—And what did you calculate the amount of the stonework at?—I cannot tell now. They are in my book.

Witness was told to bring the book containing the calculations after tiffin. From memory, he could not give any idea of what he estimated the stonework would cost.

On Mr. Denny's suggestion, the witness was cautioned that he need not answer any questions that might tend to incriminate himself.

Proceeding, witness said he could not say what he estimated the brickwork and the woodwork at. He had a separate contract for levelling the site upon which the houses were built, but the site was prepared by somebody else. He estimated beforehand the cost of the bricklayers' labour, but could not say from memory the figure he placed it at. As to the contract price of \$145,000 for the fifty houses, he did not make any calculation as to the profit it would leave him. To another man were let out the cutting and laying of the foundations—Kwok Yee, a Hoklo man; there was no written contract. Kwok Yee simply being paid so much for one hundred cubic feet. His work was to lay the foundations, and he also had to supply the concrete therefor. Only two sections, 36 and 38, in the specifications made reference to the foundations. Witness could not say how much Kwok Yee was to be paid per hundred cubic feet of the foundations. Plans were supplied to witness, and after examining them he calculated how many cubic feet there were and the cost. The stonework was let out to Ngai Sam

Yee, but for the price thereof and for other prices witness would have to turn up his books; he could not remember what it was. The contract with Ngai Sam Yee was a verbal one and for a lump sum, about \$9,000 odd. For that sum Ngai Sam Yee had to do all the stonework of the fifty houses, above and below, supplying both material and labour. The contract for the brickwork was also a separate one, Tsze A Po being the sub-contractor. The contract in this case was also for a lump sum, on account of which Tsze A Po was to supply the labour only, witness supplying the bricks, cement, and mortar. The price paid Tsze A Po was some \$10,000 odd. The same course was followed with reference to the woodwork, that also being a separate contract, verbal and for a lump sum of \$3,000 odd. Tsang Pan, the sub-contractor was to supply the labour only, witness finding the material. A separate contract was made in connection with the ironwork, which was distributed amongst four or five firms; the contract was for so many hundred catties (weight) from each firm, and it was also to supply the labour and material. This contract, a verbal one, was put through by witness's foreman, and witness made no estimate as to the cost before it was entered into. The contract in respect of the glass was also a separate one, Ying Chün being the sub-contractor. He was to supply and put in the glass, and he charged so much for each pane. These were all the sub-contracts. The roof was the work of the bricklayers, but witness supplied the tiles. The bricks required for the fifty houses he purchased at different times and from different people, but he could not say from whom the bricks used on Lot 1,107, upon which building operations started first, were purchased. The brickwork was commenced some time in May or June of last year, and all the walls were finished in December.

After lunch, witness gave further evidence regarding the progress of the work on the various blocks of houses. As to the materials, he supplied the cement, wood, bricks, tiles, and mortar. He had brought some books with him, and they contained particulars of the sub-contracting in connection with the houses. They showed that he paid \$12 for one hundred cubic feet of the foundations—for concreting, labour, and cutting the foundations; witness supplied the lime. The total amount paid to this particular sub-contractor, Kwok Yee, he was unable to say, as the amounts had not yet been totalled up. (Witness was directed to have them totalled up.) For the stonework \$8,673.20 was the total amount paid and payable after deducting \$126 for customary trade expenses. Witness could not say, without looking up his books, how much cement was used, but its cost was \$5.50 per barrel, exclusive of coolie hire. For the bricklaying work he had paid \$9,478, the last payment being on 8th September; \$1,253.10 was still due to Tsze Po, the sub-contractor. The amount paid for carpentry was \$4,118, and \$1,222.20 was still owing; what he paid for the ironwork witness could not say at present. Dealing with the estimates for the houses, he said that for the 30 houses on Lots 1,107 and 1,108 came to \$88,970, whilst the 20 on Lot 1,118 figured out at \$57,850, making a total on the three blocks of \$145,870. This amount included cash for sub-contractors, material, and labour. If there was no wind and the price of material did not go up, witness explained, there would be a profit on the figures, but there was no certainty in a building contract of making a profit. As matters stood, witness did not know whether he stood to lose or gain. There was in his estimate no item for profit; if he had luck, he would make a profit, and if he had no luck, he would make no profit. He was simply gambling, he said, on the price of material going down during the fulfilment of the contract. If the price of material went up, he would lose, and if he had money to pay the loss he would pay; if he had not the money, he would run away. Questioned as to the prices of material, witness said he paid \$100 per 10,000 bricks to one firm—\$92 for the bricks and \$8 for coolie hire.

The enquiry was adjourned till next Tuesday at ten o'clock.

Wireless telegraphy will probably be installed between Tsushima and Fusan, owing to the present failure of the cable.

THE NEILL-FRAWLEY CO. AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

"SECRET SERVICE."

Hongkong is extremely fortunate this year in having its theatrical season opened by such a distinguished combination as the Neill-Frawley Company. The announcement of their visit here—fitting though it was to be—was received with delight; their unexpected detention en route and the consequent postponement of their appearance only served to whet the public expectancy. Their fame had preceded them to the Colony. It was little wonder therefore that their coming was eagerly looked forward to. After compulsory abstinence from theatrical pleasures for a lengthened period, dwellers in the Far East are apt to glorify unduly the first "show" that comes along; but when to this lenity of view, this facile sensibility to the excellencies in a play, there falls to be added the all-important factor of a really splendid company to present the play, anything less than a complete success must be next to an impossibility. Mr. Frawley's company had many disadvantages to face on the 4th inst., but to these they rose superior and achieved a distinct triumph. Most of all as a militating circumstance was felt the limited dimensions of the stage. In a drama like *Secret Service*, where much depends upon mounting and effect, the difficulties attendant upon presentation in the local theatre does not require dilating upon. As Mr. Frawley took occasion to explain during an interval, it was a case of this kind: the stage did not fit their own scenery, so they had to endeavour to make the scenery fit the stage. There were, consequently, longer waits between the acts than there otherwise would have been. But all these minor things were obliterated in the general success of the presentment. The house, it is hardly necessary to say, was crowded to the doors, many being unable to obtain seats.

With regard to the play itself, *Secret Service* has already received the flattering approbation of London and New York (which means England and America) as brought out by Mr. William Gillette. It is not a great play in the proper sense of the word. But it is possessed of qualities to make it the success of a season, as the phrase goes. There is a rare blending here of stirring incident and virility with emotional purity. But withal the "stagey" element predominates. The play is set in Richmond during the Civil War of America, when that city is beleaguered by the army of the North, and General Lee is withstanding their attack. The central figure is *Leicis Dumont* of the U. S. Secret Service, who has penetrated the Southern lines in pursuance of his dare-devil avocation. In Richmond he is known as *Captain Thorne*. As such he wins the love of *Edith Varney*, the daughter of a Confederate officer of high rank. Through time he gains access to and control over the military telegraph department and is in the act of despatching a false order which would have proved fatal to the South when he is shot and wounded by *Benton Arrelsford*, an officer of the Confederate Secret Service, who has suspected his duplicity and sworn to expose it to his sweetheart. *Arrelsford* calls the guard and denounces *Thorne* as a spy. But when the guard appears the tables are turned. The spy, who has bound up his wounded arm and coolly resumed his cigar, accuses *Arrelsford* of murderous attack and orders his arrest, whilst he quietly goes back to the instrument and continues his interrupted despatch. This passage occurs towards the end of Act III and is the most powerful in the play. The General suddenly appears on the scene and is torn by the conflict of *Arrelsford's* denunciation of *Thorne* and *Thorne's* strenuous avowal that the despatch is genuine. He orders *Thorne* to stop the telegram. *Thorne* refuses and the General is about to enforce his commands when *Edith Varney* steps forward with a plenary commission from the President in *Captain Thorne's* favour. This commission had been previously procured by her for quite another and legitimate purpose, but she allows her love to get the better of her patriotism to save the man whom yet she knows to be her people's dangerous foe. Now is his opportunity to complete the false despatch. But, overcome

with the nobleness of the girl's action, he refuses to act under the commission and revokes the telegram. His trial, sentence of death, and unexpected deliverance are well developed in the last act.

Captain Thorne had an excellent exponent in Mr. Daniel Frawley. It is a fine character, that of a brave soldier who for cause and country is impelled to sink his soldierly instincts and embark upon the perilous but dishonoured career of a spy. His sterling bravery and coolness amid imminent danger were portrayed by Mr. Frawley in a manner unmistakably convincing. No less powerful either were the tragic encounter with his brother in Act II and the pathetic scene in the last act where he takes farewell of his sweetheart. Mr. Frawley was several times recalled. Of the *Edith Varney* of Miss Elizabeth Stewart, too much cannot be said in praise. In the light playfulness of the earlier scenes no less than in the more emotional episodes of the later acts, her gracefulness and reserved dramatic powers were marked. Miss Stewart got a fine reception. Mr. Gardner Crane as *Benton Arrelsford* was a distinct success; his treatment of the role was true and thrilling. The lighter passages of the play were pretty well embodied in the parts of *Caroline Mitford* and *Wilfred Varney*, represented respectively by Miss Eva Dennison and Mr. Chauncey Southern. Miss Dennison's acting was bright and full of vivacity and *insouciance*; Mr. Southern's frank and manly. The *Martha* of Miss Christine Hill was quaintly humorous. Of the others especially notable were Mrs. Gardner Crane as *Mrs. Varney*, Mr. Jeffrey Williams as *General Randolph*, Mr. Jack Amory as *Lieut. Foray*, and Mr. Wallace Shaw as the negro servant *Joan*. The remaining parts were suitably allotted.

From the rise to the fall of the curtain, the play was followed by the audience with attentive interest, and there was unstinted applause as the various striking dramatic events unfolded themselves. During the last *entracte*, Mr. Frawley came forward and thanked the house for their kindly reception of the piece and their indulgence towards the delays which the nature of the scenery entailed. On Monday night, he said, they intended to use the Theatre scenery itself, and hoped to be able to run through without a hitch.

"LORD AND LADY ALGY."

On the 6th inst. the Neill-Frawley Company appeared at the Theatre Royal in Mr. R. C. Carton's play *Lord and Lady Algy*. After *Secret Service* the change was a great one, and the mere fact that our visitors acquitted themselves so well in both pieces shows what a sterling company they are. *Lord and Lady Algy* is not the best of Mr. Carton's plays but it is at any rate a favourable example of that style of dramatic work in which alone English playwrights of the present day show a particular aptitude. *Lord and Lady Algy* has a good first act, a rather farcical second, and a most excellent third act. The Neill-Frawley Company took full advantage of their opportunities in the first and third parts, and if they did not succeed in doing down the over-accentuation of the second the fault is more the author's than theirs. To Mr. Daniel Frawley as the impersonator of *Lord Algernon Chetwind* the most difficult part in the weakest act fell. It may be said at once that he acquitted himself admirably. Such a role as he played is best described as "a Hawtrey part," and anyone who has seen Mr. Charles Hawtrey will readily understand the task which awaits him who undertakes it. Moreover, in itself the portrayal of a drunken man is immensely difficult, for the legitimate stage has not the license of the music halls. Mr. Frawley, however, overcame the obstacles before him, and gave a capital representation of *Lord Algy*. As his wife, Miss Van Buren at once made a successful appeal to the house. She is a most graceful actress, than whom no better has been seen in Hongkong for a long time—only old residents can say if ever. Certainly the reports which preceded her arrival in Hongkong have proved to be no exaggerations, and it is a matter for regret that we have not now the opportunity of seeing her in other plays. After the sustainers of

the two leading parts it becomes less easy to discriminate. Mr. Gardner Crane as the *Marquis of Quarmby*, Mr. Ashton as the *Hon. Crosby Jethro*, and Mr. Wallace Shaw as *Brabazon Tudway* were all good in their part, but Mr. Jack Amory as *Simpson*, the valet, can only be described as excellent. Among the ladies the strength of the Company was well maintained, and Miss Elizabeth Stewart made a charming *Mrs. Tudway*, only (if we may suggest) insisting too strongly on the tight-lacing in the second act.

It is much to be regretted that we have to wait several months more before we see this talented combination of actors and actresses once more in our Theatre. We can only hope that when they return they will see their way to make a good stay. There are many plays in their repertory which we should much enjoy to see them put on.

The performance finished by 11.15, and there were no tedious waits such as were unavoidable on the first night.

ORGAN RECITAL AT THE UNION CHURCH.

It is usually the case that the performer does not do the instrument justice, but Mr. Geo. Grumble at his organ recital on the 6th inst. was an exception to this rule, and played the excellently selected pieces with his accustomed skill. The organ in the Union Church has seen its best days, and it is creditable to the patience of those concerned in the repairing that the instrument was playable—if no more. Mr. Grumble's four solo numbers, we believe, have not been played before in Hongkong, and, with the exception of *Batista's Grand Offertoire* in F, are new compositions. Special interest centred in the *Prelude (Intermezzo)* from the *Suite to Henry VIII* by E. Grieg, which has been arranged for the organ by Mr. C. F. A. Sangster, who will be well remembered locally as the late organist of St. John's Cathedral. Mr. Grumble who was a pupil of Mr. Sangster, was presented with the original M.S. of the arrangement, and played from it last night. Nos. 3 and 5 are edited and arranged for the organ by E. Lemare—who is himself an excellent organist—and are published in his "Organ Recital Series." The two items of No. 5 are very sweet and the arrangement is perfect. The "Salut d'Amour" (Elgar) was played as a violin solo by Mrs. Ong at Mr. Ward's subscription concert last March. We notice that Mr. Grumble put the heavy pieces in the first part of the programme, leaving the light, extra melodious, numbers for the latter part: a rather good plan, and one which was entirely successful. Mrs. Mullie and Miss Ramsay were the vocalists. The former lady is still the first soprano of Hongkong. Her singing of Gounod's "Ave Maria" held the attention and interest of the audience, which in itself was an unwitting compliment to her talent. Miss Ramsay's recitative and aria from Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* were tastefully sung. Besides having an excellent contralto voice, Miss Ramsay sings with expression, and it is a pleasure to listen to her. It is to be hoped that Mr. Grumble will have another recital at an early date, even though he is sadly handicapped by the organ. Notwithstanding the large attendance, the collection on behalf of the organ fund only amounted to about \$67. The programme was as follows:—

1. Grand Offertoire in F..... E. Batiste
2. Soprano and Contralto Duet,
(a) "The Angel,"
(b) "The Wanderer's Night" } Rubenstein Song.
- Mrs. MUDIE and Miss RAMSAY.
3. Grand Chorus H. A. Wheelton
4. Contralto Recit. { "And He Journeyed with Companions towards Damascus." }
- Aria "But the Lord is mindful of His own"
(From the Oratorio *St. Paul*) Mendelssohn
Miss RAMSAY.
5. (a) "Perceuse," F. Dreyschock
(b) "Salut d'Amour," (Liebesgrus), E. Elgar
6. Soprano Solo, "Ave Maria," ... Bach-Gounod
Mrs. MUDIE.
7. Prelude (Intermezzo) } Edward German
from Suite to Henry VIII, }

HONGKONG'S TRADE AND FINANCE IN 1901.

The following is the more important part of the report on the Blue-Book for 1901 prepared by H.E. Major-General Sir W. J. Gascoigne K.C.M.G.:

FINANCES.

The revenue for the year 1901, exclusive of land sales, was \$3,973,578, or \$636,523 more than the estimate; inclusive of land sales the total revenue was \$4,213,893. The expenditure, exclusive of the cost of Public Works Extraordinary, was \$3,732,219, or \$455,317 more than the estimate; including the heavy outlay on Public Works Extraordinary, the total expenditure was \$4,111,722. There was thus an excess of revenue over expenditure of \$102,171. The sources of revenue which proved most productive and were chiefly responsible for the excess of actual over estimated receipts were the opium monopoly, the assessed taxes, chair and jinricksha and some other forms of licences, the Post Office, and stone quarries. The items which yielded a smaller sum than the estimate were not numerous, and represented no very large amounts, with the exception of the item of New Territory Land Revenue, from which a sum of \$140,000 had been anticipated and only \$27,783 received. This return, however, compares well with that of 1900, when only \$13,000 was collected from the source. As has already been pointed out in New Territory reports, the difficulties in connection with the settlement of land claims make the collection of Crown rent a slow process. The figures quoted above do not represent the whole of the revenue derived from the New Territory during 1901, as they do not include its share in the considerable increases to general revenue derived from the opium monopoly and other miscellaneous sources. The amount realised from land sales was much less than that realised in 1900. In that year more than \$316,000 was received from this source; in 1901 only \$240,315, or nearly \$16,000 less than the estimate.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

At the end of the year under review the total assets of the Colony amounted to \$2,023,581.60, and the liabilities to \$987,058.06, thus leaving a credit balance of \$1,036,523.54 not including certain arrears of revenue amounting to \$61,132.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The nature of the loans contracted by the Colony and the conditions governing their repayment may be ascertained by reference to I (D) of the Blue Book Report for 1898, page 3. TRADE, INDUSTRIES, FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE, AND LAND.

Trade and Shipping.

There was a considerable decrease in coal imports as compared with 1900, but the amount imported in 1900 was far above the average. The coal imports for 1898, also, were stated to have been abnormally large, but the returns for last year show an increase as compared with that year of nearly 100,000 tons.

The principal features to be remarked in the reported trade of the port for the year 1901 are:—

1. A decrease in the coal imports of 12.3 per cent.
2. A decrease in the cotton imports of 27.8 per cent.
3. A decrease in the rice imports of 8 per cent.
4. A decrease in the timber imports of 18.7 per cent.
5. A decrease in the hemp imports of 42.3 per cent.
6. An increase in the general imports of 9.8 per cent.
7. Also small increases in case and bulk kerosene and in liquid fuel.

The net decrease in import cargo is 123,335 tons or 3.4 per cent. In exports there appears to be an increase of 150,823 tons or 7.7 per cent. In transit cargo, a decrease of 9,163 tons or 10.4 per cent. The import trade was very depressed throughout the year. In the interior of China there was much poverty, and trade was hampered by unauthorised exactions on goods beyond the confines of the treaty ports. The fall in the exchange of silver and the high values ruling on the home markets—especially in raw cotton and all cotton fabrics—also militated severely against this branch of trade.

The opium trade was far from prosperous during the past year. In the Bengal drug,

owing to large stocks early in the season and a declining exchange in the latter half of the year, the business done, though considerable, was productive of loss to both importers and native dealers. The demand for Malwa was poor and disappointing, and the prices obtained left no margin for profit. Owing to the Formosan Government being practically the only buyer of superior Persian, the rates for this drug fell from \$825 per picul, the opening quotation, to \$640 per picul in the latter end of the year.

As regards the trade in Indian cotton yarn, the year under review shows a decidedly marked improvement over the previous twelve months.

The Imports to Hongkong and Shanghai, which showed a shrinkage of close upon 60 per cent. in 1900, increased again over 100 per cent. during the past twelve months, whilst sales in Hongkong showed an excess of 45,715 bales and those in Shanghai of 69,083 bales.

A great and important movement has taken place which has opened the whole of the markets of inland China to the world. Manufacturers on the spot will certainly be unable, at least for some time, to meet the greatly increased demand which will thus be occasioned; and in the meantime India may fairly hope to reap some share of the harvest, more especially if *lekis*—a veritable millstone round the neck of this trade—is effectually removed.

Shipping.

The total tonnage entering and clearing during the year 1901 amounted to 19,325,384 tons, being an increase, compared with 1900, of 880,248 tons, and the same in excess of any previous year. Of this increase, 165,128 tons are due to the fact that steam launches trading to ports outside the Colony have been included this year, whereas in former years they have been returned separately. There were 45,349 arrivals of 9,681,203 tons, and 47,171 departures of 9,644,181 tons. Of British ocean-going tonnage, 2,917,780 tons entered, and 2,897,200 tons cleared. Of British river steamers, 1,697,242 tons entered, and 1,701,417 tons cleared, making a grand total of British tonnage of 9,213,639 tons entering and clearing. Of foreign ocean-going tonnage, 2,637,552 tons entered, and 2,609,902 tons cleared. Of foreign river steamers, 48,545 tons entered, and 49,503 tons cleared, making a grand total of foreign tonnage of 5,345,430 tons entering and clearing. Of steam launches trading to ports outside the Colony, 82,564 tons entered and 82,564 tons cleared. Of junks in foreign trade, 1,631,272 tons entered, and 1,634,896 tons cleared. Of junks in local trade, 666,248 tons entered, and 663,699 tons cleared. Thus—British ocean-going tonnage represented 30.1 per cent. British river 17.2 per cent.; foreign ocean-going 27.5 per cent.; foreign river 0.5 per cent.; steam launches 0.9 per cent.; junks (foreign trade) 16.9 per cent.; junks (local trade) 6.9 per cent.

The actual number of ships of European construction (exclusive of river-steamers and steam-launches) entering the port during 1901 was 682, being 337 British and 345 foreign. Thus 682 vessels entered 3,570 times, and gave a total tonnage of 5,555,332 tons. The shipping returns for 1900 and 1901 showed that though there was a large decrease in the number of vessels under the British flag (chiefly due to the withdrawal of some river steamers) there was an increase in British tonnage of 53,441 tons. This did not include junks in local trade, the business of which showed an increase of more than 700,000 tons over that of the preceding year.

The problem of providing berthing accommodation in the harbour for the ever-increasing tonnage frequenting the port is one that is getting more difficult each year, and though there may not be any very pressing necessity just at present, there can be no reasonable doubt that, with the constant advance in size, draught, and number, as well of ships-of-war as of the mercantile marine, and of foreign as well as British shipping, the water space will soon be found inadequate.

INDUSTRIES.

During the year 1901, most of our local industries, which are chiefly carried on upon joint stock principles, were well employed throughout the year, with satisfactory results. Cotton-spinning by the local company was hampered by the plague. The results to original shareholders were not good, owing to

the initial cost of the mill being higher than originally estimated. However, the capital was written down largely, and fresh capital brought in, with the effect that the present condition of the Company is very satisfactory, and the future outlook promising. Improved dwellings for their operatives are shortly to be erected, and the system of piece work has been successfully introduced.

The sugar industry has been hampered by the large importations of Continental bounty fed sugar into Japan and other markets which used to draw their supplies from here.

The shipping industry during 1901 was prosperous throughout the year. Overspeculation in shares both here and in Shanghai has in many cases adversely affected the value of shares in several of the local undertakings, but I think that this is merely a temporary condition and that things will come to their normal level before long. If the heavy fall in silver becomes permanent, it must eventually stimulate local productions, particularly in the repairing and docking of ships, as this work can be excellently done by Chinese under European supervision. The local Dock Company is a large and well equipped institution, and the docking facilities of the Colony will, in the course of the next few years, be largely augmented by the Admiralty Dock and by considerable works of the same sort at present under construction by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire at Quarry Bay. The Hongkong Dock Co. are at present building a large river steamer for the Canton route, and if the result is satisfactory a considerable development in ship-building may show itself, especially if silver remains low.

The labour question—the crux of the industrial problem here—gives serious food for thought, and it is to be hoped that the extension of the boundaries of the Colony may make it possible to provide cheaper and healthier house accommodation for the labouring classes, so that the two chief elements of industrial prosperity—cheap labour and cheap money—may be successfully united. At present, high rents and some unseen influence—probably Chinese guilds—militate against full advantage being taken of the abundant supply of labour in the adjoining provinces.

FISHERIES.

There are no fisheries of importance. The local demand for salt and fresh fish is met by fleets of fishing junks and a large number of net stations, and the fish that are required for salting are dried and salted on the beach. There is a very large local demand for fish from the Canton River, which are brought down alive in tanks in the daily passenger steamers.

FORESTRY, BOTANICAL SCIENCE, AND AGRICULTURE.

The Forestry and Botanical Department is under the charge of a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, aided by a large staff of gardeners and foresters. Perhaps the most important work carried on by this Department is the planting of trees. Camphors have been planted as an experiment in the New Territory, but it is feared that they cannot be grown there so as to give an adequate return on the capital invested. The experiment was not successful, but will be repeated. Rubbers were also tried, but the climate is not suitable to this Central American and Malayan tree and most of the plants died in the cold season. Much interesting botanical work is yearly carried on in Hongkong. Mr. Ford, the Superintendent, has shown that the total number of plants, exclusive of mosses, lichens, sea-weeds and fungi, indigenous to Hongkong, is 1,397, probably more than are indigenous to the whole of the British Isles. Plants and seeds are regularly interchanged with other botanical institutions, and the number of plants which are successfully introduced into the Colony by this means is constantly increasing. It is hoped that before long an experimental Economic Garden will be established in the New Territory for the purpose of introducing and distributing amongst the natives new plants of economic value. The hilly character of the Island and its comparative absence of fertilising soil has prevented agriculture from becoming an active source of industry in Hongkong. The acreage of cultivated land in the island is a little over 400 acres only. The old dependency of British Kowloon, which is chiefly composed of

level ground, contains almost the same amount of cultivated land. This, however, tends to diminish as buildings extend. The only part of the Colony where agricultural industries can be expected to thrive is the New Territory, which, though intersected by extensive ranges of barren hills, contains valleys where rice and sugar and other crops are grown with success. The acreage of cultivated land in the New Territory (including the islands) is not far short of 100,000, but much of this contains exceedingly poor soil and consists of minute holdings belonging to the poorest class of peasants. The Government has taken steps to introduce some better qualities of sugar-cane into the New Territory. Some attempts have been made to grow the mulberry, but without success.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The available amount of building land in Hongkong, except in the New Territory, is so limited that it has for many years commanded a very high price, and land premia and Crown rents form a considerable portion of the Colonial revenue. Land in private hands has proved to be a most lucrative source of wealth to its owners, while at the same time its scarcity and high value have tended to raise house-rents to such an extent as to seriously embarrass large numbers of Chinese and European tenants. Very extensive reclamation works have been and are still being successfully carried out, and large areas of level building ground have thereby been created. It is hoped that before long a practical commencement will be made of a new reclamation which will extend from the Naval Dockyard in the centre of the town to Causeway Bay in the East. The sales of Crown land in 1901 were, as has been already stated, much less than those in 1900.

LEGISLATION.

Thirty-seven Ordinances were passed during 1901, of which fifteen were amendments of Ordinances already in force, and two were private Ordinances for the naturalisation of Chinese. From the Imperial point of view perhaps one of the most important measures of the year was the first Ordinance, which raised the annual Military Contribution of the Colony from 17½ per cent. to 20 per cent. of the total gross revenue, exclusive of land sales and premia on leases or statutory land grants. Ordinance 5 is perhaps the most important measure of the year. It is an Ordinance "to establish a Code of Procedure for the Regulation of the Process, Practice, and Mode of Pleading in the Civil Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Colony." The Supreme Court was established by legislative enactment in 1845 and all its proceedings were regulated by the practice of the English Courts "unless and until otherwise ordered by rule of the said Court." Successive attempts at improving the Civil Procedure of the Court were made in 1855, 1856, 1859, 1860 and 1871, and led to the enactment of what is known as the Old Code of Civil Procedure, in 1873, which abolished the old distinction between common law and equity, and established a uniform procedure for the administration of both. Alterations were from time to time carried out during many subsequent years, and the new Code, which was drafted last year by Sir John Carrington C.M.G., and enacted as Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, contains the final results, up to the present time, of all the changes and improvements which experience had found necessary. Ordinance No. 13 of 1901—a Consolidating and Amending Public Health Ordinance—was an important measure which will probably, however, be partially superseded by new legislation during 1902.

EDUCATION.

The system and methods of education in the Colony are fully described in the Report for 1899, since which time there have been few changes. The whole system of education is at present under consideration, and may shortly undergo considerable modifications as the outcome of the deliberations of a special Committee appointed towards the close of the year. A description of any changes which may take place should find a place in the next Report. The principal school in the Colony is Queen's College, an institution which forms a distinct Government Department. The total number of pupils on the roll (European, Chinese and other Asiatics) is nearly 1,500. The average annual expenses of each boy are less than

\$18, and the total fees received by Government amount to over \$28,000. There is a large staff of English and Chinese masters, who provide the pupils with an education which not only enables many of them to compete successfully in the Oxford local examinations but also fits them for important posts as interpreters and clerks in the Government service and in mercantile houses. There is a growing feeling amongst both British and Chinese residents that the system of educating European and native children side by side in the same schools is not without its serious drawbacks. The subject has been fully dealt with in a Petition forwarded to you in September last, and the outcome will probably be the establishment of one or more good schools for European boys and girls and similar schools for the children of the better class Chinese.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on Public Works during the year was \$687,325.70. The principal work initiated was a greatly enlarged scheme for the construction of Water-works to supply the Kowloon Peninsula with water by gravitation, the estimated cost of the work being \$835,000. The reservoir to be constructed is situated in the New Territory, in connection with the development of which several works were in progress, principal among them being the road to Tai-po, 16 miles in length. Work was begun on an additional reservoir at Tylam for increasing the supply of water to the City of Victoria. A number of buildings were in progress, including the New Law Courts, Harbour Office, Western Market, and Governor's Peak Residence. A large Reclamation Scheme, in front of the eastern section of the City, estimated to cost \$5,000,000, was under consideration, and arrangements for the construction of an electric tramway, 9 miles in length, were nearly brought to a conclusion.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

Government Hospitals consist of the Civil Hospital, to which is attached an isolated Lying-in Hospital; Kennedy Town Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the Hospital hulk *Hygeia*. The Civil Hospital contains 124 beds in 18 wards; the Lying-in Hospital 6 beds for Europeans and 4 for Asiatics; and Kennedy Town Hospital 78 beds. In 1901, 267 cases were treated at Kennedy Town, of which 204 were cases of plague, 52 of small-pox, and 15 of cholera. 2,918 in-patients and 12,663 out-patients were treated at the Government Civil Hospital in 1901, showing a slight decrease in the figures for 1900. Malarial fever alone was responsible for over 800 admissions. The Tung Wa Hospital, supported by voluntary subscriptions among the Chinese and only to a small extent endowed by the Government, takes the place of a Poor House and Hospital for the Chinese sick and destitute. Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or those who are responsible for them.

Asylum.

The Lunatic Asylum is under the direction of the Principal Civil Medical Officer. European and Chinese patients are separated, the European portion of the Asylum containing 9 beds in 8 separate wards, and the Chinese portion containing 16 beds. Ninety patients of all races were treated during 1901, and there were 7 deaths.

The Chinese College of Medicine.

This institution was founded in 1887, largely through the efforts of Dr. Patrick Manson, Dr. Cantlie and others for the purpose of teaching surgery, medicine and midwifery to Chinese. The Government of the College is vested in the Council, of which the Rector of the College, who has always been a Government official, is President. 57 students had been enrolled up to 1901, and of these 12 have become qualified licentiates, who have obtained various posts under Government and elsewhere. The institution is of great value in spreading a knowledge of Western medical science amongst the Chinese.

Po Leung Kuk.

This is a Society, under the supervision of Government, for the protection of women and children. It has done much good work in connection with the suppression of brothel slavery, which was in Hongkong and still is in China,

one of the gravest social evils. If the Registrar-General, who acts as President of the Society, has reason to believe that a girl is being sold into a life of prostitution against her will, or if she is, in his opinion, of too tender an age to judge for herself as to her mode of life, she is sent into the Po Leung Kuk, where she is fed, lodged, and, unless she has relatives who will receive her, appropriately educated until she has an opportunity of making a respectable marriage or of earning an honest livelihood by her own exertions. The institution is managed by a number of Chinese gentlemen who are annually elected as a Managing Committee. The number of women and children admitted into the Home during the year was 389, being 52 more than in 1901. 187 were restored direct to parents or relatives or were sent to some Benevolent Society in China, 3 were adopted, 5 placed at school, and 50 were married.

Reformatory.

The Belkiss Reformatory, presented to the Colony by Mr. E. R. Belkiss, C.M.G., has not been occupied. It has been proposed to make use of the building, with the donor's consent, by turning it into a school. The matter is at present under consideration.

Savings Bank.

There is no Post Office Savings Bank in Hongkong. A branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation takes the place of such an institution in this Colony.

Police.

The total strength of the Police Force, which stood at 639 in 1898, 827 in 1899, and 929 in 1900, now stands at 920, including 145 Europeans, 366 Indians and 409 Chinese. The gradual diminution in armed robberies and lawlessness in the New Territory made it possible to withdraw a number of men from that part of the Colony during the year to strengthen the force in the City of Victoria and Kowloon. The executive staff now consists of a Captain Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents. The conduct of all the contingents is reported to have been satisfactory. Since the middle of the year, the Chinese Provincial Authorities have maintained a force of soldiery along the northern boundary of the New Territory, who have co-operated with our Police in preventing the incursion of armed robbers into the Colony.

Prison.

The daily average of prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol was 499, as compared with 486 for the year 1900. There were 181 convicts in the Gaol on the 31st December, 1901, against 141 on the same date in 1900, 96 in 1899, 55 in 1898. This shows an increase of 125 per cent. during the past 3 years. This large increase is synchronous with and largely attributable to the inclusion of the New Territory in the Colony.

The total profit of all industrial labour amounted to \$24,783 as compared with \$17,458 for the preceding year. All minor repairs to the Gaol have been carried out by prison labour. A new wing was completed and occupied by long-sentence prisoners early in the year. The question of extending the Prison accommodation in the Colony has been for some time engaging the attention of the Government.

The Superintendent of the Gaol is also Captain Superintendent of Police, and is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent, a medical officer, chaplains, and European and Indian warders.

Fire Brigade.

The Superintendent of Fire Brigade is also Captain Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Victoria Gaol. The European members of the Brigade, with the exception of the Engineer, are also members of the Police Force voluntarily enlisted, and for their service in the Brigade they receive a small addition to their pay. There are also a number of Chinese foremen and engine-drivers. The Brigade possesses a powerful floating fire engine for use in the Harbour, four land steam engines, and 29 despatch boxes. The 5 fire engines were all built by Messrs. Shand & Mason.

There were 58 fires and 84 incipient fires during the year, and the Brigade turned out 57 times. The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$630,381 and by the incipient fires \$212. The only year in which greater damage was done by fire was 1898, when the total damage was \$829,814.

Towards the end of the year the work of extinguishing fires was rendered more arduous by

the drought and the consequent want of water in the mains.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts during the last 4 years are as follows:—

	1898	1899	1900	1901
1. For offences against the person.	19	43	54	54
2. For offences against property.	17	13	7	7
3. For other offences.	3	0	12	21

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 9,172 as against 9,873 in 1900. This represents a decrease of 7.10 per cent. In offences which are classed under the term "serious" there was a decrease of 128 cases or 3.62 per cent.; in minor offences a decrease of 573 cases or 9.03 per cent. Three men were arrested and convicted for being members of an unlawful (the Triad) society. There was a notable decrease in piracies and armed robberies, partly no doubt owing to the efficacy of recent legislation on the subject.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The last Census was taken in January, 1901, when the population was found to be 283,975, exclusive of the Army and Navy. The numbers of those forces amounted to 7,640 and 5,597, respectively. In the middle of the year the population is estimated to have been as follows:—Non-Chinese Civil Population, 9,560; Chinese Population, 280,564; Army, 5,162; Navy, 5,974. Total, 310,660. The New Territory was not included in the recent Census, but a fairly accurate enumeration of its population was made. It numbers about 100,000, which brings the total population of the Colony up to rather over 400,000. It is significant that while the total increase in the population of the Colony during the five years between 1897 and 1901 was 35,095, the increase during the same period in the population of British Kowloon (which used to be a garden suburb of Victoria) was no less than 16,534, or nearly half the increase for the whole Colony. There were 1,088 births during the year, and of that number 848 were Chinese. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 3.6 per 1,000, as compared with 3.3 in 1900, 4.3 in 1899, and 4.7 in 1898. Owing, however, to the large number of Chinese infants who die unregistered, it is estimated that a more correct birth-rate for the past year would be 4.7 per 1,000.

Public Health.

As compared with the 1,088 births mentioned above, there were 7,082 deaths in 1901. This gives a death-rate of 23.5 per 1,000 as compared with 23.9 in 1900, 23.8 in 1899, and an average of 22.5 per 1,000 during the past five years. The deaths included 1,562 from bubonic plague, which again visited the Colony and ran its usual course. Excluding the deaths from plague, the death-rate for 1901 would have been 19.03 per 1,000. Among the non-Chinese the deaths numbered 412, of which 32 were among the Civil population, 96 among the Army, and 14 among the Navy. This is equal to a death-rate of 20.5 per 1,000. The British deaths among the non-Chinese numbered 116; the rest were chiefly Indians, Malays and Portuguese. 1,651 cases of plague were reported during the year, of which all but 89 were fatal. The disease showed an increased tendency to attack Europeans. The chief causes of death among the non-Chinese resident civil community were plague, phthisis, malaria and pneumonia. There were more cases of small-pox than usual, and some cholera cases were imported. It is hoped that when the much needed improvement in the sanitary condition of the City is effected, there will be a large decrease not only in the deaths resulting from bubonic plague but also in those from phthisis and other chest diseases, which are more or less directly attributable to overcrowded and insanitary dwellings. It is to be regretted that the experiment of once more sending troops to reside in the building which was originally destined to be a Military Sanitarium, has not proved successful, and the hopes expressed in paragraph VIII (b) of the Report on the Blue-book for last year have not been realised. After a brief period of freedom from malaria, the troops stationed there began to be attacked in considerable numbers and had to be wholly withdrawn from the building, which now stands empty. The treatment with

larvicides of the breeding places of the anopheles mosquito is being actively continued.

Sanitation.

In spite of the efforts of the Government, the Sanitary Board and the Legislature, during the past few years, the sanitary state of the Colony still leaves much to be desired. The City of Victoria retains its unenvied pre-eminence in the matter of surface crowding, and in spite of the enforcement of the provisions of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance of 1899, the condition of the vast majority of the Chinese dwelling-houses is far from meeting the requirements of modern sanitary science. As there seemed to be no prospect of amelioration without the adoption of more radical measures than had hitherto been attempted, and as the Community showed by a Petition which they addressed to you in the course of the year that they were prepared to face the heavy expenditure which stronger measures would certainly involve, Sir Henry Blake asked you to send out an expert to enquire into the sanitary state of the Colony and report upon the steps which in his opinion should be taken to remedy existing defects. In October, 1901, you informed Sir Henry Blake that you had selected Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C.M.G., a sanitary expert of wide experience and no stranger to Hongkong, for this special work. About the same time you informed him that you had selected Professor Simpson, M.D., to pay a simultaneous visit to the Colony with a view to a thorough enquiry being made into the origin of bubonic plague, and the best means of providing against its annual reappearance. A notice of the work done by these gentlemen, who had not yet arrived in the Colony at the end of 1901, will, it is hoped, appear in next year's Report. A certain result of their visit must be the introduction of legislative measures to consolidate and amend the present Health and Building Ordinances.

Climate.

The average monthly temperature throughout the year was 72.1 deg. F. as compared with 71.5 deg. F. during 1900; the maximum monthly temperature was attained in July, when it reached 82.2 deg. F., and the minimum monthly temperature was recorded in the month of February, being 54.8 deg. F. The highest recorded temperature during the year was 92.7 deg. F. on August 3rd, and the lowest was 38.4 deg. F. on February 4th. The total rainfall for the year was 55.74 inches, as compared with 73.73 inches in 1900 and an average of 77.2 inches during the past ten years. The wettest month was May with 14.10 inches, while there were also 14 inches of rain in the month of August; the driest month was January, with only 0.685 inch. The greatest amount of rain which fell on any one day was 4.23 inches on April 7th, while no rain fell on 213 days of the year; the relative humidity of the atmosphere throughout the year was 75 per cent. as compared with 77 per cent. in the previous year. The average daily amount of sunshine throughout the year was 5.5 hours, and on 35 days only was no sunshine recorded. It may be mentioned that the rainfall of 1901 was less than half the rainfall of the year 1891. Tytam Reservoir, the principal source of water supply, was not filled throughout the year, and only one rainfall during the last 20 years (that of 1895) was lower than that of the year under review.

POSTAL SERVICE.

The cessation of the Boxer troubles in the North of China gave an impetus to trade, which was faithfully reflected in the steady increase in postal business. The monthly sales of stamps showed an increase of \$21,765, as compared with 1900, and for the first time since the adoption of the penny postage the revenue exceeded the highest revenue from the same source in former days. The returns from the Branch Post Offices at Shanghai and in China also show gratifying results. The revenue of the Department from all sources in 1901 was \$355,912, and the Expenditure \$273,685. The nett balance to the Hongkong Post Office on the year's transactions amounted to \$82,227. The Acting Postmaster General comments on the fact that though many foreign Post Offices were opened at various ports in China during 1901, no new British Offices or Agencies were opened. He is strongly in favour of the establishment of Agencies at Chefoo, Tientsin and Peking.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Regular Forces.

The following return shows the number and nature of the Forces employed in the Colony during 1901.—General Staff, 6; Garrison Staff, 1; Royal Garrison Artillery, 611; Hongkong-Singapore Battalion, R.A., 466; Royal Engineers, 238; Chinese S. M. M. Co., R.E., 65; Second Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1,041; Army Service Corps, 8; Royal Army Medical Corps, 56; A.O.D. and Corps, 59; A.P.D. and Corps, 10; Indian Sub-Medical Department, 3; Education Department, 2; Hongkong Regiment, 928; 22nd Bombay Infantry, 703; 3rd Madras Light Infantry, 678; 5th Infantry Hyderabad Contingent, 699. Total, 5,564.

Colonial Contribution.

The Colony contributed \$801,275 (being the statutory contribution of 20 per cent. of revenue) towards the cost of the maintenance of the regular forces in the Colony and barrack services.

Volunteer Corps.

The total establishment of the Corps is 351 of all ranks. The strength in 1901 was:—Staff, 7; one Field Battery (80) of six 2.5 in R. M. L. Mountain Guns; three Machine Gun Companies (157) of four 303 in. Maxim machine guns each; an Infantry Company (53); an Engineer Company (25), and a Band (19).

The 45 in. Maxim machine guns have been converted into guns of .303 in. calibre.

The expenditure on the Volunteers, which is entirely borne by the Colony, was \$26,772.61.

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY AND STORM-WARNINGS.

We received on the 7th inst. from the Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce copies of the following further correspondence on the above subject—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
10th September, 1902.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 23rd and 30th ult. forwarding copy of the flag signal code used by the Sicauei Observatory, together with specimens of the meteorological notices issued by that Observatory, and urging the adoption in Hongkong of a system of flag signals for giving weather forecasts.

2. The Committee seem to have entirely misapprehended the remarks of the Acting Director of the Observatory made in his memorandum of the 24th of July, for Mr. Figg never made the statement attributed to him in the 6th paragraph of the Committee's letter of the 23rd ult. What Mr. Figg did state is that a flag signal code to be useful must be short and definite and that there were grave objections to conveying definite information by the hoisting of a signal on information which is necessarily vague and may be misleading. The reasons for which a system of flag signals is not considered suitable to Hongkong have been given in my letter of the 31st of July, and I am to state that this Government adheres to the views therein expressed.

3. The Committee appear still to confuse the difference between observations and the forecasts whereon they are based. This fact seems to explain the difficulty they have in understanding that the Hongkong Observatory considers that a station like Gutzlaff freely exposed off the coast, furnishes better data (observations) for forecasting than does Sicauei situated as it is inland. As to forecasts, it has already been explained that the Hongkong Observatory like every other scientific institution of the kind prefers to make its own and declines to accept the responsibility of using the forecasts of other institutions.

4. I am to add that the enclosures to your two letters have been carefully examined but that it does not seem either desirable or expedient for this Government to criticise them or to test the relative accuracy of the information and typhoon warnings issued by the Sicauei and Hongkong Observatories.

Should, however, the Chamber be anxious to institute a comparison, every assistance will be given to that by the Acting Director of the Observatory.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
24th September, 1902.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant in reply to this Chamber's letters of the 23rd and 30th ult. on the subject of storm-warnings.

This was laid before the Committee in due course, and they now instruct me to express their thanks for the consideration given to their various representations on the subject, and their regret that their suggestions have not met with the approval of the Government. At the same time, they desire me in reply to refer to the following points in your letter.

In paragraph 2 reference is made to Mr. Figg's observations with regard to the matter of a flag signal code, which, from the Committee's remarks on same, appear to you to have been misunderstood by them. If the summary of these observations as given in my letter of the 23rd August is not strictly in accordance with what Mr. Figg desired to convey, the Committee regret that such difference should have occurred, but Mr. Figg's views certainly were to the general effect that, *inter alia*, by reason of the necessity for a flag signal code being very extensive, and therefore impracticable, the action of such form of signals for storm-warnings would not in his opinion be suited to local conditions. This Committee, on the other hand, have striven to show that such fears need not be entertained, and, in support of this, produced for your information a copy of a code of such signals which has successfully stood the test of many years' actual practice at a neighbouring port, and has apparently given the greatest satisfaction to all concerned in the receipt of such warnings.

With reference to paragraph 3 the Committee desire to say that they have all along had the difference between forecasts and the observations on which they are based quite clearly before them, and they quite agree that the Hongkong Observatory should make up its own forecasts upon the observations and information received from other stations.

With reference to paragraph 4, I am to state that the Committee have never presumed, nor have they felt it within their province to question the accuracy of the information and typhoon-warnings issued by the Observatory, and they consider it would be equally undesirable and inexpedient for them to attempt to test the relative accuracy of those issued by the Hongkong and Sicauei Observatories. They desire, however, to record that the correspondence recently addressed to you on the subject has been wholly and solely directed towards obtaining some such needed improvement in the method of publishing such information and warnings to the shipping and shore communities, so that these could be made known as speedily and as widely as possible, and also towards removing what they cannot help feeling to be more or less a reproach to this Colony, viz., that the Observatory here is not in touch with, or at all events is not in sympathetic relationship with the kindred institution at Sicauei, a misfortune which the Committee consider must necessarily tend to the disadvantage of both, and is certainly to the detriment of navigators in these seas.

The Committee on previous occasions have referred to the dissatisfaction entertained by mariners frequenting this port with the system of storm-warnings in use here, and they now take this opportunity to hand you herewith copy of a letter to this Chamber on this subject, dated 16th instant, and signed by the masters of 38 steamers trading in these waters, which spontaneous communication the Committee venture to think must be considered rather a marked confirmation of the representations already forwarded by them on the subject. The Committee earnestly hope that the Government will take this representation into consideration, and consent to give what assistance it can towards holding the enquiry into the matter which is suggested by the signatories of the said letter.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong, 16th September, 1902.

SIR,—We shall feel obliged if you will draw

the attention of the Chamber of Commerce to the opinion of us, the various shipmasters, who have signed this letter.

Without in any way depreciating the labours of the officials of the Observatory, we yet feel that the existing system of typhoon-warnings in Hongkong leaves much to be desired.

We do not propose to enter into details here, merely pointing out that in our opinion the signals are lacking in sufficient accuracy and that the weather forecasts are not widely enough distributed.

It would be indeed difficult to embody in this letter the suggestions of the various shipmasters who are addressing you.

We therefore propose that a Committee be formed by the Chamber of Commerce to enquire into the matter, and that such of us as you may select be requested to give our evidence, either personally or by letter, so that the matter may be laid before His Majesty's Government, as representing the opinions and requests of the whole of the shipping community.—We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

P. H. ROLFE,	S. Yuen-sang.
G. H. BOWKER,	Yik ng.
J. G. ROACH,	Haitan.
A. W. OUTERBRIDGE,	Sunkiang.
S. J. TADD,	Laisang.
M. DOWSON,	Woosung.
H. SLEEMAN,	Chiyuen.
S. J. PAYNE,	Fausang.
J. MCGINDY,	Perla.
G. S. WEIGALL,	Loongsang.
R. RODGER,	Diomante.
A. STEWART,	A. Apar.
SPENCER WILDE,	Hangsang.
A. EYRE DABELLE,	Guthrie.
G. H. PENNEFATHER,	Kaifong.
A. E. HODGINS,	Haiching.
JOHN DEWAR,	Tungchow.
W. PALMER BAKER,	Taksang.
A. SOMMERYILL,	Wuchang.
D. HERON,	Newchang.
G. W. EEDY,	Tamsui.
W. H. LUNT,	Meifoo.
A. H. BEST,	Yungching.
FORBES SELBY,	Clenroy.
G. GIBSON,	Hailoong.
R. Y. AUDER,	Quiysang.
J. S. PRATT,	Huiskin.
WALTER MILLER,	Kiukiang.
J. LYONS,	Laertes.
W. BENSON,	Yunnan.
A. E. FIFE,	Wenchow.
E. RICHARDS,	Ningpo.
W. SHAW,	Poating.
R. W. ALMOND,	Rubi.
HENRY PYBUS,	E. of Japan.
WM. DAWSON,	Hongmoh.
C. J. BENTON,	Nankin.
W. E. SAWER,	Hinsang.

The SECRETARY,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
27th September, 1902.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant and to inform you that should the Chamber of Commerce entertain the request contained in the last paragraph of the shipmasters' letter which formed the enclosure in your letter under reference, His Excellency will consider very carefully the statements and suggestions laid before the Committee with every anxiety to give the fullest information to all those persons for whose safety and that of their ships the Observatory was primarily established.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce.

The concerts in S. Patrick's Club are always enjoyable, and that on the 4th inst. by the 20th Century Variety Club was no exception to the rule. The talent was varied and excellent, such favourites as Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson, Mr. Gus Gregory, and the Francis Brothers taking part. Aster and Miss Rocha, designated as "fancy waltzers," figured appreciatively in the programme, which included two sketches. The band of H.M.S. *Blenheim* was in attendance.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 6th October.

H.E. TAO MU RETIRES.

H.E. Tao Mu, having some time ago memorialised the Throne to permit him to resign on account of illness, has at last actually resigned, and landed over the seals of the Viceroyalty to H.E. Tak Sow, who now again occupies the position of Acting Viceroy of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. But the illness of H.E. Tao Mu is at present too serious to permit him to take a voyage home; therefore the yamen of the Salt Commissioner in the Southern suburb has been prepared for his temporary accommodation. On the 3rd inst., he was removed to his new residence, his family having gone early in the morning. The streets from the Viceroy's to the Salt Commissioner's yamen were lined with solidiers and well guarded. Just at 11 a.m. a salute of three guns was fired from the Viceroy's yamen and the procession, consisting of the Viceroy's retinue, officials and banner-bearers, was on its way. As His Excellency was indisposed he gave orders that no gong was to be beaten on the way, nor any police-runners to cry out. Orders were also given that the guards of honour need not *howtow* when he passed. The procession went slowly and quietly. His Excellency sitting in a large sedan chair in plain civilian dress, preceded by which was a foreign chair with a foreigner within. His Excellency looked very thin and pale, sometimes closing his eyes for a rest, and sometimes opening them to look round.

CRICKET-FIGHTING.

Owing to the cricket-fighting matsheds in Pa Chow in the district of Pau Yu being burnt, and a number of persons killed, the matter has been placed in the hands of the Acting Prefect Kung. It has been found by the official enquiry that the fire originated from the gambling shed which caused the destruction of all the sheds, eight flower-boats, over ten small boats, and the death of a great number of persons. From 30 to 40 bodies were taken up from the water, and the high authorities have issued a notification prohibiting cricket fighting as a mode of gambling. The notification is to this effect:—“Whereas it has been the bad custom in Canton during the 7th and 8th moons for some rogues and vagabonds to build matsheds for cricket-fighting as a mode of gambling, which sheds were built of bamboos and covered with mats, and of extensive size, some being used as drink-shops, some as brothels, some as gambling-houses wherein the games of cards, *fantan*, and dice were played, and others used as restaurants and for theatrical performances with a view to attract persons to the cricket-fights for the purpose of gain; and whereas persons going to such places were mostly a commodated in flower-boats and on the way were attacked by pirates: this bad custom ought to be prohibited so as to diminish the cases of robbery and danger to life and property. Landowners, therefore, are not permitted to let their grounds for the purpose of cricket-fighting; theatrical proprietors are not allowed to accept any engagement there; flower-boats are prohibited from taking passengers thither. In the event of disobedience of this order the offenders shall be seized and punished, and their property confiscated.”

Later.

OFFICIAL NEWS.

The Acting Viceroy Tak Sow will take up his residence in the yamen of the Viceroy on the 14th October, while the Acting Provincial Governor Li Kwong-yui will remove to the yamen of the Provincial Governor on the 19th prox.

General Wedensky, Governor-General of the Siberian Coast Districts, went to Tokyo at the end of September to interview Baron Komura, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the fishery question. The privilege granted by the Russian Government to Japanese, of fishing on the coast of Sakhalin Island, was to terminate in November, but the Russian authorities are now reported to have extended the charter by one year at the request of the Japanese Government. This is the fourth extension which has been made in favour of Japanese fishermen.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 8th October.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The naval element is at present conspicuous by its absence in Macao. The *Zaire* left on Saturday for Hongkong, where she will remain in dock for a month or six weeks during the installation of electric light. The *Diu* is expected from Shanghai in a day or two; and next week the French gunboat *Argus* will possibly make her appearance here.

CHANGES IN MACAO.

Visitors to Macao will soon observe a great change on the right hand side of the Strada da Bella Vista, beyond the Flora. A large piece of land has been bought by a wealthy Chinaman of your city, Mr. Ho Tung, and already a strong granite wall is being built along the side of the road. I believe that a large house with gardens and a tennis-court is to be constructed there, and it is to be hoped that it will add to and not detract from the beauty of one of the most charming roads in the Fast. Another fresh feature which will appeal more materially to visitors from Hongkong, is the opening of the Hotel Internacional in the building formerly occupied by D'Almeida's Hotel. It has been taken by an enterprising and painstaking manager, and will doubtless prove a blessing to many week-end visitors, unable or unwilling to seek accommodation elsewhere. Unfortunately the prospect of the appearance of a railway station is not any nearer, and the latest rumour is to the effect that the Chinese Government is going to reserve for itself the construction of the Macao-Canton line. But there seems to be no pressing need for such a line, and when the Canton-Hankow line is finished, it may be time enough to consider it, and then the labour and experience devoted to the latter undertaking might be devoted to an extension toward the sea.

Incidentally, I should mention that the Bazaar announced for next Saturday has been indefinitely postponed.

PEKING.

Peking, 25th September.

AMERICAN ADVISERS.

Your editorial on foreign advisers to the Chinese in this province and elsewhere calls attention to the complaint sometimes heard among Americans that their countrymen do not receive the same advantages with the Chinese as do other nationalities. As a matter of fact this is not so. We have at this time contrary evidence in the list of American advisers you have mentioned, and besides, the past furnishes numerous instances of Americans voluntarily withdrawing from lucrative positions in the customs, and provincial reform enterprises, and returning to their own country. Only recently the Viceroy Yuan Shikai asked the State Department at Washington to furnish him an essayer and master of minting with whom to re-establish the Tientsin mint. The Department tendered the positions to two competent men who gave a favourable answer and afterward when the agreement was complete withdrew their assent refusing to come to China at salaries which there is reason to believe were nearly double what they are receiving at home. If Americans will prefer their own land to any conditions abroad whatsoever, they can expect to see the enterprising citizens of other countries taking the places of preference and emolument in the new Chinese enterprises. It will not be to their credit nor interests to fall behind any others in the affairs of this new era in the East.

BANKS AND SILVER.

Besides the mint Yuan Shikai is seeking the establishment of a provincial bank. Just now the scarcity of silver in Tientsin has oppressed trade to such an extent that he has endeavoured to borrow several millions of taels of the foreign banks. The report that he succeeded in this last week is discredited here because the amounts named are not to be had in the north. The native banks have shipped silver out of the province continually for months in a way that ought to be punishable.

TWO JAPANESE EDUCATORS.

have gone to Paoingfu to start Yuan Shikai's new normal school. This enterprise is said to

be independent of the educational work of Mr. Tenney.

THE KETTLER MONUMENT.

The sculpture on the Baron von Ketteler monument stones has been completed and an immense scaffolding, one of the most gigantic ever seen here, has been raised over the foundations, covering Hata Men Street and extending with its stays into adjoining courts. It is for the purpose of lifting the great stones, some of which are thirty feet long and three feet square, and depositing them in their positions. Traffic moves through forest-caverns of associated tree trunks provided on either side of where the pailow will stand. This work is one of most curious interest to the occidental and recalls to mind the imaginings of what the building of the pyramids was like.

THE YELLOW TILES.

that form the roof of the Imperial city wall are receiving a new coat of paint. The paint used for this purpose as for the other yellow tiles on imperial structures is not yellow but red, so that in time roofs painted with it take a red colour, inferior to the original brilliant yellow. For beauty there is no tile made by the Chinese that surpasses the blue one found on the circular temple in the Temple of Heaven enclosure. It is not so brilliant in sunlight but is translucent and deep and more mysterious.

THE RUSSIANS.

are building their barracks and will have, when completed, the most interesting building in the legation quarter. This is due to the style of architecture which is peculiar to Russia, and the wholesome plan of one-story buildings not higher in their living precincts than the walks defending them. There are minarets, and spires, cupolas and gables and the essentials of good architecture, lacking in some of the other legation areas.

LEGATIONS AND BUILDINGS.

The Legation Minister will shortly arrive in Peking and take up his quarters within the present American Legation compound, occupying the house vacated by Mr. Squires until the Americans can build on the new site nearer the Chien Men. The preparations for a new legation have not proceeded satisfactorily because of a lack of knowledge of the desires of the State Department in Washington, but a better understanding has been reached and a creditable building will be put up under expert supervision. At present the most promising legation under construction is the Austrian, which will be very costly and also large. Work on the Belgian legation proceeds very slowly. The foundations are not yet finished. The Luhan Railway company are erecting creditable buildings opposite the German barracks and the Catholic Cathedral is now nearly finished. The interior is being decorated in the French national colours and the scaffolding is ready to be taken from the spires. By the contract this structure was to have been finished on the first instant, and Bishop Favier hoped to have dedicated it before this. The Bishop has been removed from the S. Michael hospital to his home at the Peitang, and is slowly recovering from the stroke of apoplexy.—*Mercury*.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 26th ult.:—

Further action against ex-Governor Chen Pi of Peking has been quashed by the judicious outlay of Tls. 20,000.

The health of the Tientsin Customs Taotai is steadily improving.

The manager of Viceroy Yuan's official organ is erecting a paper-mill at Tientsin.

Prince Tsai Chen arrived at Tungku on the 25th, and went direct by special train to Peking.

Viceroy Yuan Shikai takes a great deal of interest in the improvement of the Peiho.

The following are from the *China Times* of the same date:—

A telegram states that Great Britain has formally offered to withdraw her garrison from Shanghai next month if the other Powers do the same.

Three brigands called Pai, Chang, and Yang having wiped out a family named Kao in Peking, are now awaiting a painful execution themselves.

There is to be a grand reception at the palace in Peking of all the Foreign Ministers and ladies to-morrow. A large number of valuable presents have been made for the occasion.

The Coronation Festivities at Tientsin passed off very successfully, Sir Ernest Satow having come down from Peking to be present.

The Viceroy has been suffering from fever, but has not given up any of his public duties.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 29th ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the above Society was held on the 4th inst. at the Society's offices, 4, Queen's Buildings. Hon. C. S. Sharp (chairman) presided, and there were also present—Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, G. H. Medhurst and G. Ballock (directors), W. J. Saunders (secretary), Hon. G. W. F. Playfair, W. G. Winterburn, Gershom Stewart, J. A. Jupp, W. H. Ray, G. Melchers, W. H. Wickham, C. M. G. Burnie, A. Finke, W. H. Potts, C. H. P. Hay, J. M. R. Souza, H. J. Carvalho, J. A. Carvalho, J. R. Michael, F. D. Goddard, and A. Forbes.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report has been in your possession for some weeks, and I will, with your permission, take it as read. The figures we are able to lay before you this year are we consider very satisfactory, but, in comparing this year's figures with those of last year, you must all understand that the increase all round is to a very large extent due to the fall in the gold value of the dollar. Last year our gold assets and liabilities and expenses were converted into dollars at the exchange of 2s. while this year we have had to take 1s. 8d. as the nearest round figure for this purpose. As regards this Society, it is on the whole to be regretted that the currency of the Colony does not maintain a steady ratio with the currencies of the countries in which we do the bulk of our business. Not only in London but in Australia, in India, in America and even in Japan our business is transacted in gold, with the result that, for the purpose of comparing one year with another, the pound sterling would be a far more suitable unit for our accounts than the dollar. The shares, however, are mostly held locally, and for the present at any rate it is considered more correct to keep to the local currency in spite of its drawbacks. However, whether stated in pounds or in dollars, the result of the working of the year 1901 in exceedingly good. There is a very satisfactory natural increase both in the premium receipts and in the profits, quite apart from the nominal increase due to exchange, and there is a balance of \$8160,000 odd, of which it is estimated that not more than \$416,000 odd will be required for outstanding liabilities and losses. This leaves \$400,000 to deal with, and we recommend that \$100,000 of this be placed to Reserve Fund and the balance applied in payment of a dividend of \$30 per share as compared with the dividend of 323 per share paid last year. It is important that shareholders should recognise that a part of this increase of dividend is due to the fall in exchange. The accounts for the year 1902 are satisfactory so far as they go. You will perhaps have noticed that the usual estimate of the position of the account as at the end of September has been omitted. Such an estimate must naturally be to a large extent guesswork, and it is thought better to confine ourselves to actual figures at this early stage of the account. I may, however, state that there is nothing abnormal in the receipts or in the losses since the 30th June last. Turning now to the balance sheet, there is to be noticed an increase of some \$33,000 in the amount invested in London and an increase of some \$270,000 in our funds in the East. Besides these actual accretions due to larger earnings there is the great nominal accretion due to fall in exchange. There is only one more point that it occurs to me to mention. I would like to tell you that the directors have not been forgetting the staff in dealing with the very fine results of the years 1900 and 1901. The remuneration of the staff is, as you know, left to the directors, and in the exercise of our discretions we thought it right at the end of

last year, when the result of the 1900 working was more or less accurately to be calculated, to vote a bonus to the Society's servants in the form of an addition of 15 per cent. of a year's salary to the Provident Fund of each member. At the end of this year we shall, if our calculations are not upset in the meantime, be able to take a similar addition to each member's Provident Fund, and I feel sure that the shareholders will approve of our doing so. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to learn if anybody would like to ask any questions.

No questions were asked.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no questions, I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR—I beg to second the motion. No words of mine are required to say anything about these reports and accounts. They speak for themselves, as also does the satisfactory statement you, sir, have just made from the chair. I am exceedingly glad, however, to see that you have voted a certain amount to the employees' Benevolent Fund. No one can know better than the directors themselves, although they themselves are the legal figure-heads, that it is the managers and the staff that are the real officers and engineers to guide the good ship "Union" through many a stormy sea with credit and safety. (Applause.) Therefore I think that all the shareholders will be only too glad to see that good services faithfully rendered are adequately remunerated. I think that all shareholders should back up their boards—I do not say this body of shareholders and this board in particular—but all shareholders should back up their boards in adequately remunerating good services. If you look at the Government estimates for the forthcoming year you will see there a very large increase in the salaries of the Civil servants. And these are not only paid at the rate of 3/- to the dollar but are entitled to a pension. The inference from that is that either the Civil servants are overpaid or that the average commercial servant is underpaid. (Applause.)

Mr. A. FORBES moved the re-election of the Hon. R. Shewan and Mr. N. A. Siebs to the board of directors.

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. F. D. GODDARD moved the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts.

Mr. A. FINKE seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I have now to bring before you our proposal for the increase of the Society's paid-up capital. It is very usual in judging of the standing of a company to look first at the amount of the paid-up capital, whilst a large balance in exchange fluctuation account or other reserves does not convey the same idea of security. Such a large proportion of our business is now done in gold that we think it very necessary to make up our paid-up capital to an account which, when carried out into pounds at the current rate of exchange, will show a respectable figure to our contributors in gold using countries. The effect, as far as the shareholders are concerned, will be that the uncalled liability under their shares will be reduced from \$200 to \$150 per share. The directors have under the Articles of Association power to make a call. They have also power to declare an interim dividend if circumstances will permit. A precisely similar operation was carried out in the year 1895, when the sum of \$20,000 was transferred to capital account with, as far as we know, the unanimous approval of the shareholders, and we do not anticipate any objection on the part of the shareholders to our repeating the operation. As, however, the amount to be dealt with is of some magnitude, we have decided not to put through the transfer until the 31st December next, so as to give distant shareholders the opportunity, if they object to the proposal, of exercising their right to have an extraordinary general meeting called to discuss the matter. The exchange fluctuation account now amounts, as you will see from the balance-sheet, to \$935,828. This accretion arises from the periodical revaluation of the excess of gold assets over gold liabilities at lower rates of exchange for the dollar. When we take away

\$300,000 we shall have left \$435,828, which the directors consider an ample sum to keep as a provision against the effect of a possible rise in the value of the dollar in the future. It is impossible to say exactly at what figure for the dollar this balance of \$435,828 would disappear, without defining exactly which of our liabilities are in gold and which are in silver, but I may say that the reinsurance fund and underwriting suspense account are treated as gold liabilities. The larger part of the balance of the 1902 working account is also in gold. It is sufficient to state that exchange can rise to 2s. 6d. or higher without this balance being exhausted. A fall in exchange would under present circumstances still further add to the fund. There is no motion before the meeting on this occasion, and I merely have to ask you to signify your approval of the step which is proposed to take. Before calling for a show of hands I will give those present the opportunity of making any remarks they may wish.

On a show of hands being taken, the CHAIRMAN declared the proposal to be carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business before the meeting. Dividend warrants will be sent out to-morrow.

YACHTING IN HONGKONG.

The first breath of the north-east monsoon has come as a welcome reminder that the yachting season proper is close at hand. A year or two ago during the sweltering heat of summer, pleasure craft were rarely to be seen afloat, but since the acquisition of the New Territories a comfortable shallow-draught type of cruiser, suited to local conditions, has been evolved and several of these useful craft have been in commission during last summer. They are of an interesting type these cruisers unlike anything to be seen in home waters and with their long, low, but beamy hulls, sharp bows, big rudders and Chinese sails are strongly reminiscent of the "Hakka" boats, formerly common but now rare in these waters. But though the paltry breezes and blistering heat and glare of a summer's day may be endured in such craft as these, the owners of the smaller cruisers and the racing twenty-fours are compelled to limit their sport to the duration of the north-east monsoon. During the next few weeks a King's yard, where most of the yachts have summered, will be at its busiest as boat after boat is fitted out. Soon after the beginning of November the season will be in full swing, and the long series of races organised by the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club will start. Yachting has always been a favourite sport in Hongkong, but since the foundation of the Yacht Club it has flourished as it never did before, and there are now on the Club's register more yachts than have ever before been owned in Hongkong in any one year. The total tonnage may not be as great as in the old days when big cutters used to race here, but it cannot be far short for of cruisers of twelve up to twenty-four tons there are six, of smaller craft—mainly intended for cruising—four, and of twenty-four ft. raters, old and new, fifteen and two building. This large fleet of twenty-fours is divided into three classes: the first class consisting of the newest and best boats; the second, or handicap, class of boats which formerly raced in the first class but which have been outbuilt and cannot compete on equal terms with the newer boats; and the one design class consisting of four boats all built to the same lines. In the course of the six months' season there are held under the auspices of the Yacht Club twelve "Club" races for each of the three classes and at least as many other races, usually handicaps, for prizes presented by various donors. For the "Club" races prizes are not given for each race, but the winner scores ten, the second four, the third one point, and at the end of the season two substantial prizes are given by the Club to the winner of the two highest aggregate in each class. The Yacht Club, which can boast of being the premier "Royal" Club in the Colony, is a vigorous organisation consisting of about one hundred members, keen yachtsmen most of them, for paid skippers are unknown and members sail and man their boats themselves. The Club is at present somewhat handicapped

by having no club-house and no permanent anchorage of its own. The Naval Extension drove them from their old anchorage and the Wanchai Reclamation, when carried out, will turn to dry land the anchorage off A King's yard now used by most members. The question, too, of a new repairing yard may soon become acute, for A King's tenure of the piece of foreshore he now occupies is precarious; but sufficient for the day is the evil thereof, the Club can flourish under present conditions and it is to be hoped that before those conditions change a convenient anchorage and a site for a new yard may be found. Yacht racing is popularly supposed to be a very expensive amusement, but in Hongkong at any rate it is not so, though the cost has undoubtedly increased somewhat of recent years, and two or three men of very moderate means clubbing together can race a twenty-four without difficulty. Every year a sound yacht or two is for sale at a reasonable price, say from \$200 to \$500 complete, and the cost of keeping a yacht in racing trim, including wages and all small repairs and renewals, need not exceed \$25 a month. Few places in the world offer such advantages as Hongkong to the beginner. In the landlocked harbour there is practically no danger, the expense is small, the races frequent, and at times fixed to suit the busy man. Few sports are so exciting as yacht racing and few games call for greater nerve and judgment, but the rawest beginner need not despair, for every time he goes out he will see others little better than himself learning to handle their boats and though he may not win races at first, it is certain he will do so in time, if he will only persevere and profit by his failures. But after all racing is not the be all and end all of yachting: on off-days, Saturdays and holidays what can be more delightful than cruising in and about the neighbouring bays and islands. No one who does not yacht knows half the beauties to be found within a very few miles of the Clock Tower, nor does he know how magnificently exhilarating the air of Hongkong can be. For the hardworked man, for the man who has to live in this stuffy town of ours, there is no sport so healthful, no tonic so efficacious as yachting, and large as is the number of sailing craft to be seen out on a fine winter's day, the only wonder is the number is not double as great considering the unrivalled advantages Hongkong can offer to yachtsmen.

HONGKONG GUN CLUB.

CHAMPIONSHIP, 1902.

The Gun Club's championship was shot for on the 6th, 7th, and 8th inst., with the following result:—

15 YARDS' RISE—20 BIRDS.			
H.E. Sir H. Blake	11111	11111=10	17
Capt. Cadogan	11110	11111=9	17
Mr. Tomes	11101	11110=8	15
Mr. Turner	10111	11000=6	13
Capt. M. Rumsey	00000	11101=4	12
Mr. MacMillan	11110	00101=6	12
Mr. Burton	10111	10100=6	11
Mr. Garnett	01100	01001=4	10
Mr. Wise	11110	10110=7	8
Mr. Looker	01001	10000=4	6

The members were at home to their friends on the afternoon of the 8th inst., when the tie was shot off in the presence of a large company. Capt. Cadogan won in brilliant fashion, breaking the whole 20 birds:—

Capt. Cadogan	11111	11111=10	20
Sir Henry Blake	11100	01111=7	16

During the afternoon a Ladies' Nomination competition was held 10 birds at 15 yards' rise.

Mrs. Bertie, nominated	Capt. Cadogan	H'cap. Tl.
Miss Hancock,	Mr. Tomes	Sc. 10.
Mrs. Leigh,	Mr. Macmillan	2 10
Mrs. Rublee,	Sir H. Blake	1 9 1
Mrs. Simpson,	Mr. Garnett	1 9 1
Mrs. Tomes,	Mr. Looker	2 9
Mrs. Wise,	Mr. Wise	2 8 1
Miss Blake,	Capt. Arluthnot	Sc. 7
Mrs. Tullock,	Captain Duff	2 6 1
Miss Rose Leigh,	Mr. Leigh	2 6 1
Mrs. Turner,	Mr. Turner	1 6
Miss Hazeland,	Mr. Watson	3 6
Mrs. Watson,	Mr. Burton	1 5
Mrs. Robinson,	Capt. Rumsey	2 3

In shooting off the tie, Captain Cadogan and Mr. Tomes again tied and had to shoot off another five birds, Mr. Tomes receiving 1.

RESULTS OF TIES.

Captain Cadogan	H'cap. Tl.
Mr. Tomes	Scratch 9
Mr. Macmillan	2 9

Captain Cadogan	Scratch 5
Mr. Tomes	1 4

The proceedings terminated by Miss Blake kindly presenting the prizes. Captain Cadogan's shooting was worthy of note. He broke 29 consecutive birds and out of 43 birds he shot at during the afternoon scored 42. This is a record for Hongkong.

CRICKET.

FIRST XII v. NEXT XXII.

The opening match of the season was played on the Cricket Ground on the 4th inst. and resulted in an easy victory for the First XII. Score and analysis:—

XXII—First Innings.

G. Moulé, b Lowe	0
H. W. Smith, R.A., l.b.w., b France-Hayhurst	31
Major Radcliff, 33rd B.L., c France-Hayhurst, b Powell	9
C. P. Chat, c Powell, b France-Hayhurst	7
E. H. Meaden, R.N., l.b.w., b Powell	6
Lieut. C. G. Bird, R.M.L.I., b Woodgates	16
Lt. Venables, R.W.F., c Hooper, b Lowe	36
Lieut. Bland, R.A., b Mahon	3
W. C. D. Turner, c Mahon, b Lowe	2
W. R. Lemarchand, c Mahon, b Lowe	2
G. P. Lammert (Capt.), c Lowe, b Mahon	14
Major Berger, H.K.R., c Powell, b Mahon	1
W. R. Robertson, b Powell	2
Major Clark, R.A.M.C., c sub., b Mahon	12
P. W. Goldring, c and b Powell	2
Lieut. Sutor, R.A., c Campbell, b Powell	0
T. C. Gray, st Garde, b Powell	8
J. P. Jordan, b Powell	4
A. Humphreys, b Mahon	1
W. W. Clark, c Ward, b Powell	0
G. A. Woodcock, not out	0
F. D. Bain, b Mahon	0
Extras	2

Total 158

XII—First Innings.

R. B. Garde, R.N., b Turner	45
Lt. France-Hayhurst, R.W.F., b Smith	1
Capt. G. D. Campbell, H.K.R. (Capt.), c Lammert, b Smith	2
Lieut. Moberley, H.K.R., c Bird, b W. W. Clark	9
J. Hooper, c Bird, b Smith	8
A. G. Ward, c Jordan, b Smith	8
Capt. Clapham, R.A., b Smith	2
S. Powell, st Goldring, b Smith	56
J. A. Woodgates, c and b Turner	1
Lieut. Mahon, R.N., l.b.w., b Meaden	12
Lieut. Silver, R.N., not out	33
A. R. Lowe, not out	13
Extras	8

Total (10 wickets) 198

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

XXII—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Silver	4	—	9	—
Lowe	13.1	3	28	4
France-Hayhurst	10.1	2	33	2
Powell	12	2	43	8
Woodgates	4	1	12	1
Clapham	2	—	19	—
Mahon	10.3	5	12	6

XII—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Smith	19	—	87	6
Radcliff	5	—	10	—
W. W. Clark	6	2	20	1
Turner	6	—	27	2
Meaden	3	—	10	1
Lemarchand	4	—	20	—
Lammert	1	—	10	—
Jordan	1	—	5	—
Major Clark	1	—	1	—

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR OCTOBER.

The following scores were returned:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. E. F. Deacon	92	— 16 =	76
Capt. R. C. Morris, R.A.	92	— 12 =	80
Mr. C. P. Chater	102	— 20 =	82
Mr. A. B. Lowson	93	— 6 =	87
Mr. A. Boyd	109	— 18 =	91

22 entries.

POOL.

Mr. C. P. Chater	99	— 2 =	79
Capt. R. C. Morris, R.A.	92	— 12 =	80
Mr. E. F. Deacon	97	— 16 =	81
Mr. F. B. Deacon	101	— 18 =	83
Mr. E. V. D. Parr	104	— 18 =	86

28 entries.

PROFESSIONAL PAIRS.

The particulars of this competition, which started in August and concluded on the 8th instant, are as follows:—

Round 1—A. B. Lowson and C. W. May beat Dr. J. M. Atkinson and Dr. R. Gibson. The rest received byes.

Round 2—Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N., and the Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., w.o. A. Tomes and H. W. Slade scratching; W. W. Clark and W. D. Kraft beat T. H. Reid and P. W. Sergeant; J. Stewart and H. E. R. Hunter beat O. J. Barnes and W. C. D. Turner; C. M. G. Burnie and C. H. P. Hay, w.o. C. W. Dickson and K. McK. Ross scratching; T. S. Forrest and A. B. Smith beat A. S. Anton and C. P. Chater; E. S. Silk, R.N., and Lieut. Parker, R.N., beat A. W. Whitlow and W. G. Woraster; Capt. Morris, R.A., and Lieut. G. Badham Thornhill, R.A., beat J. E. Lee and T. C. Gray; E. J. Grist and F. B. Deacon beat A. B. Lowson and C. W. May.

Round 3—Clark and Kraft beat Drew and Rumsey; Stewart and Hunter beat Burnie and Hay; Forrest and Smith beat Silk and Parker; Morris and Thornhill beat Grist and Deacon.

Round 4—Clark and Kraft beat Stewart and Hunter by 6 up and 4 to play; Forrest and Smith, w.o. Morris and Thornhill scratching.

Final Round—T. S. Forrest and A. Brooke Smith (Jardine Matheson & Co.) beat W. W. Clark and W. D. Kraft (Standard Oil Co) by 6 up and 5 to play.

The quarterly meeting will be held from Friday, 17th, to Monday, 20th October.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Chess Club has been fixed provisionally for the 3rd prox. Among the business to be transacted is the election of a President. The committee has nominated Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., to the post, and confirmation by the general meeting is required. The Club is to be congratulated in its choice, for Mr. Pollock is an able and enthusiastic player and was, we believe, one of the founders of the Club.

HONGKONG.

There will be an extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club, in the Pavilion, on the 15th inst., at 5.15 p.m., for the purpose of revising the Club rules.

Two fatal cases of cholera, both Chinese, occurred in the City of Victoria during the week ended 4th inst. Two cases of diphtheria, not fatal, also occurred, the sufferers being Europeans.

We are glad to notice that the inscription on the granite block near the Cricket Pavilion in Chater Road commemorating the laying of the foundation of the new Praya Reclamation works by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in 1892, has been re-gilded and the face of the stone cleaned.

A romantic marriage was celebrated in Hongkong on the 4th inst., the contracting parties never having seen each other in the flesh until the day previous, when the bride arrived by the s.s. *Hamburg*. The match was arranged on the photograph system. Both bride and bridegroom are German.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1901-2	1900-1
	lbs.	lbs.
Foochow	7,636,697	7,982,085
Canton	—	—
	7,636,697	7,982,085

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1901-02	1900-01
Amoy and Formosa	—	—
Foochow	5,669,791	798,129
	5,669,791	798,129

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	16,318,773	18,816,024
Kobe	—	—
Hioyo	—	—
	16,318,773	18,816,024

SILK.

CANTON, 25th September. — Re-reels. Shortly after that date a very active demand set in for Europe and our market rendered extremely sensitive by the reduced 5th crop and the abnormal scarcity of stock, began at once to advance rapidly. The movement was further accentuated by prospective shortage in the 6th crop which, unless the drought is very shortly broken up, will in all probability suffer a reduction of at least 50 per cent. Buyers however were not to be denied and followed the upward course of the market, many holders then withdrawing altogether and refusing to name a price. Subjoined quotations are only approximate, the market being too excited for accurate valuations. Filatures.—Prices generally show an advance of \$70 100 p. picul, the rise being especially marked on fine sizes. In these, Kwong Yuen On and Wing Wo Lun 911 have been sold at \$1,000, (Frs. 4000) and \$1,010 are reported as since offered without finding sellers. Bids of \$970 (Frs. 3900) are also refused for Kwong Shun Cheong 1113 and Petit 1112. As we go to press we hear of sales to-day in On Wo Hing, Nam Chan 1012 at \$975 and King Lun Tai 1012 at \$950. Best 3c. Ordre 1113, 1115 have buyers at \$810 (Frs. 3300) and business will probably result, although holders actual ask \$40.10/11 is very firmly held for \$900 (Frs. 3625). Short reels.—American buyers promptly responded to the movement paying up to \$960 for Extra 1416. On the present basis the production of Short reels shows considerably more advantage to reelers than that of fine-sized European reels, and the supply of the latter is still further restricted in consequence. Waste.—The already inflated prices of this class have hardened still more in sympathy with the Raw silk market, and we hear of no fresh transactions of any importance.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	27,013	31,447
	27,013	31,449

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	44,396	25,148
	44,396	35,148

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 10th October. — No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 10th October. — The prices are advancing, market being brisk.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.10 to \$8.15 picul
do. " 2, White.....	6.75 to 6.80 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ..	5.65 to 6.10 "
do. " 2, Brown ..	5.85 to 5.90 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.05 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.65 to 6.70 "
do. " 1, Brown ..	5.80 to 5.85 "
do. " 2, Brown ..	5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.05 to 12.10 "
Shekloong ..	9.55 to 9.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th October. — Large demands having come forward the prices are consequently going upward.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$1.00 to 3.65
" Round, Good quality	4.40 to 4.45
" Long	4.50 to 4.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.90 to 3.95
" Garden, " No. 1	4.10 to 4.15
" White	4.50 to 4.55
" Fine Cargo	4.80 to 4.85

OPPIUM.

HONGKONG, 10th October. — Malwa. — A good enquiry existed during the early part of the fortnight and a fair amount of business was done at a rise of \$10 per picul; latterly, owing to advices of a shipment from Bombay, dealers stopped buying. Market closes dull and we quote New at \$9.00 and old at \$1,000 1,020.

Bengal. — Market remained very firm and active owing to the firmness in Shanghai and Calcutta and also on account of the large interest dealers had. The bargains held by the Chinese to-day stand at 1,700 chests and consequently they have now every reason to keep up the strength of the market. We close New Patna at \$922, New Benares at \$927 and old Patna at \$911. At the highest rates however only a small sale was made so far.

Persian. — Continued active. Superior drug changed hands at \$700 per picul. Other quantities have been taken up at various rates from \$580 to \$640 per picul.

Stock on date:—

Patna	Benares	Malwa	Persian
2,644	693	466	1,608

COALS.

HONGKONG, 10th October. — Owing to short stocks of Japanese, market continues firm. Prices have slightly improved.

Cardiff	\$18.00 ex ship
Australian	\$10.00 to \$11.00 nominal
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 to 12.50 ex godown nominal
Miki Lump	\$10.00 ex ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$6.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double	10.50 ex godown
screened	—
Hongay Lump	8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	6.00 "
Briquettes	16.00 "

COTTON.

HONGKONG 10th October. — No sales reported. Market very quiet. Stock, about 2,000 bales.

Bombay	21.00 to 22.50 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, ..	22.00 to 24.50 "
and Dacca, ..	—
Shanghai and Japanese, ..	25.00 to 26.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo, ..	25.00 to 26.50 "

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong 10th October:—Owing to continued absence of rain in the interior, demand from the country still holds off, there being no inquiry whatever except for the small wants of the city. The settlements noted below were effected during the first two or three days of the interval and the market looked on the eve of improvement, when the appearance of a large native operator with instructions to force sales discouraged dealers and business has since come to a complete standstill. At the close the market continues quiet but steady, as considering the recent decline in exchange, and reports of a revival in the de and continued advance in Shanghai, importers how little or no inclination to realize, and prefer to wait further developments.

With incessant large arrivals, our stocks, under ordinary circumstances, would have shown a very heavy increase, but Shanghai is steadily working off our unsaleable goods and some relief is anticipated from smaller shipments from Bombay.

Local Manufacture:—Show the continuance of a minimum of demand and a decline of \$2 in price. Japanese Spinnings:—Tonquin demand has temporarily subsided. Sales reported are some 225 bales, say Blue Fish No. 16s. at \$112, and ettsu No. 20s. at \$123.

Raw Cotton:—An entirely blank fortnight has been experienced in Indian descriptions, which are still very low and the market lifeless. The sum in yarn, the unsettled and disturbed condition of the country and unsympathetic markets in Japan are the depressing influences. Estimated an old stock about 2,250 bales. Chinese cotton has participated in the depression, only about 100 bales changing hands at from \$26 to \$28, prices showing a decline of fully \$2. Stock about 350 bales. Quotations are Bengal \$21 to \$26 and China \$26 to \$28.

Exchange on India has continued to recede and closes to-day at Rs. 126½ for T/T and \$126½ for Post. On Shanghai 74 and on Yokohama 2½ per cent. premium. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 28th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 8,532 bales, comprising 25 bales No. 6s., 4,148 bales No. 10s., 1,409 bales No. 12s., 1,548 bales No. 16s., and 1,502 bales No. 20s., prices remaining with little alteration as those last given and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock 38,000 bales.

Japanese:—Have been in limited enquiry, sales amounting only to about 1,000 bales at steady prices, say Tls. 86 to 90½ for No. 16s. and Tls. 90 to 91½ for No. 20s., market closing weak.

Local:—There has been some enquiry and about 6,000 bales are expected to have changed hands at or about previous rates; market tending downwards.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th October. — Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$83.00 to \$124.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.77
9 to 10 lbs.	3.85 to 5.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.90
58 to 60 " ..	3.25 to 3.45
64 to 66 " ..	3.55 to 5.35
Fine	5.40 to 7.85
Book-folds	4.55 to 7.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.90 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 "), " ..	2.20 to 2.50
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.40
7lbs. (32 "), " ..	3.95 to 3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.20 to 3.75
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " ..	4.20 to 6.90

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.60 to 4.50
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Brocades—Dyed

	per yard
DAMASKS—	
Chintzes—Assorted	0.18 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 3.50

WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.65 to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths ..	1.25 to 3.00
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.85 to 8.25
Assorted	7.00 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	15.50 to 34.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } ..	12.50 to 17.00
Assorted	—
Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 0.80
Fine quality,	1.40 to 2.00

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.60 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.60 to —
Swedish Bar	4.65 to —
Small Round Rod	5.00 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.,	6.50 to —
Wire, 16/25,	9.20 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	7.90 to —
Australian	7.90 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00 to —
Tin	77.50 to —

	box. per
Tin-Plates	8.25 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ½	6.50 to —

SUNDRIES—

	per picul
Quicksilver	180.00 to —
	per box.
Window Glass	5.75 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	2.60 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 10th October.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	18 3/4
Bank Bills, on demand	18 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	18 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	18 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	18 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	18 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2 1/2
Credits, 4 months' sight	2 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand	
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	41 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	126 1/2
Bank, on demand	126 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
Private, 30 days' sight	
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	
BAR SILVER per oz.	

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 10th October.—Enquiry for our principal stocks has become more general during the week under review, but, owing to the difficulty of bringing buyer and seller together, it has not resulted in much actual business.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai were booked in the earlier part of the week at \$60 1/2 and \$60 1/2, but latterly, in sympathy with the advance in London to £64, the rate has rapidly risen to \$61 1/2, at which shares are still enquired for. Nationals are unchanged at \$27 sellers.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions are in request at \$455 ex the dividend of \$30 per share for 1901 paid yesterday. China Traders are enquired for at \$59. North Chinas can be procured at Tls. 187 1/2. Yangtszes can be placed at \$126. Cantons are procurable in small lots at \$18 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at \$360 and \$355, and close with probable buyers at \$350. Chinas are steady with an inclination to sell at \$86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue steady at \$30 1/2 with some sales. Indo-Chinas have again advanced and are now wanted at \$85. China Manilas can be disposed of at \$25. Douglases are steady at \$38 1/2. Star Ferries are wanted at \$20 and \$10 1/2 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports after sales at £1. 17s. 6d. continue on offer at the rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue neglected at \$99. Luzous have improved to \$11 buyers.

MINING.—Punjoms have receded to \$4 sellers. Charbonnages have sold privately at \$6 0. Jebebus have sellers at \$1 1/2 after sales at the rate. Raubs are wanted at \$5 1/2.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in small but steady request at gradually rising rates and close steady at \$210. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$87 buyers. New Amoy Docks are still enquired for at \$37.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold to a small extent at \$171 and are now enquired for at \$172. Kowloon Lands continue on offer at \$30, and West Points at \$47 1/2. Hongkong Hotels are in strong request at \$128 with nothing available under \$129. Oriente Hotels have further declined to \$4 sellers. Humphreys Estates are wanted at \$11 1/2—sellers ask \$12.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are unchanged at Tls. 39 sellers. Internationals have sold in the north at Tls. 31. Hongkong Cottons are on offer at \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have improved to \$20 buyers. China Borneos have further improved and can now be placed at \$23. Electrics are offering at \$13 (old) and \$8 1/2 (new). Geo. Fenwicks are steadier with probable buyers at \$47 1/2. Campbell Moores have been booked at \$35. China Providents have sold and are wanted at \$9 1/2. Wm. Powells are steady at \$9 with sales at the rate.

MEMOS.—China Borneo Co., Ltd. Extraordinary general meeting to-morrow, 11th inst. Wm. Powell, Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 13th inst. Canton Insurance Office, Ltd. ordinary general meeting on the 23rd inst.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$61 1/2) buyers (London, £64.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
Four. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35, sales
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$23, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 1/2, sales & buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$99, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 39, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 31.
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37 1/2.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47 1/2.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$10	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$13, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$345, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$9 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$128.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$87, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$170, sellers
H. & W. Dock Insurance—	\$50	\$210, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$185, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86.
China Traders	\$25	\$50, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$355.
North China	\$25	Tls. 187 1/2, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$50	\$455, ex div., buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$126, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$172, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47 1/2, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$11, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$660, sales
Jebebu	\$5	\$1 1/2, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$10	\$4, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.
Raubs	18	\$5 1/2, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$40, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$52 1/2.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$25, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38 1/2.
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$36 1/2, sales
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$85, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1. 17s. 6d., sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$20, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$10 1/2, sales & buy.
United Abestos	\$4	\$8 1/2.
Do.	\$10	\$155, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19 1/2, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 1/2, sellers

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Kamakura Maru (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).
 FOR LONDON.—Valletta (str.), Glengarry (str.), Glenshiel (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.), Nestor (str.), Achilles (str.), Menelaus (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Denlariq (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—Machaon (str.), Deucalion (str.).
 FOR MARSEILLES.—Salazie (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).
 FOR GENOA.—Denlariq (tr.).
 FOR BREMEN.—Prcussen (str.).
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sazonia (str.), Silvia (str.), Serbia (str.), Marburg (str.), Suavia (str.), Alesia (str.).
 FOR TRIESTE.—Trieste (str.).
 FOR ODESSA.—Knias Gortschakow (str.).
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.), Yangtze (str.), Kaga Maru (str.), Tosa Maru (str.).
 FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.).
 FOR NEW YORK.—Richmond Castle (str.), Glenesk (str.).
 FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indravelli (str.).
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Taiyuan (str.), Airlie (str.), Yawata Maru (str.).
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Laisang (str.).

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 10th October.—Since last report, freights have further improved. From Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents last and more tonnage wanted; to one port Philippines, 28 cents offering; to Java, 25 cents per picul. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 cents and 25 cents per picul. From Java to Hongkong, 25 cents for wet and/or dry and 20 cents per picul for dry sugar. Newchwang to Canton, 28 cents per picul offering. From Wuhu to Canton, 30 candereens per picul. Coal freights are firm. Moji to Hongkong, \$2.25; to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Cassius—German steamer, 1,627 tons, Mororan and/or Otaru to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.
 Madeleine Rickmers—German steamer, 1,021 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.40 per ton.
 Zeir—Austrian steamer, 2,119 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton.
 Taurus—Norwegian steamer, 1,367 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton.
 Deramore—Norwegian steamer, 1,479 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.
 Ulbrand—Norwegian steamer, 1,269 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.
 Theodor Wille—German steamer, 2,397 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.90 per ton.
 Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.
 Benarty—British steamer, 2,153 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton.
 Else—German steamer, 890 tons, Moji to Shanghai, \$1.50 per ton.
 Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.
 Thea—German steamer, 934 tons, three trips, Wuhu to Canton, 26 candereens per picul.
 Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 759 tons, Wuhu to Canton, 14 candereens per picul.
 Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, hence to Tamsui (kerosene), 15 cents per case.
 Saga—Norwegian steamer, 699 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 25 cents per picul.
 Sleipner—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
 Chunshan—British steamer, 1,282 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.
 Salamanca—British steamer, 883 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.
 Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.
 Sishin—British steamer, 845 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.
 Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.
 Lisa—Swedish steamer, 998 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
 Themis—Norwegian steamer, 1,208 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.
 Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 27 1/2 cents per picul.
 Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
 Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
 Seitoku Maru—Japanese steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
 Madeleine Rickmers—German steamer, 1,021 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
 Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
 Anamba—Danish steamer, 1,200 tons, monthly, 4/2 months, \$7,000 per month.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- October—
- ARRIVALS.
- 5, Capri, Italian str. from Bombay.
 - 5, Savoia, German str. from Vladivostok.
 - 6, Agamemnon, British str. from Liverpool.
 - 6, Apenrade, German str. from Hoihow.
 - 6, Freiburg, German str. from Shanghai.
 - 6, Loyal, German str. from Bangkok.
 - 6, Pelayo, British str. from Foochow.
 - 7, Albion, British battleship from Shanghai.
 - 7, D'Entrecasteaux, French cr. from Amoy.
 - 7, Diamante, British str. from Manila.
 - 7, Glenesk, British str. from Shanghai.
 - 7, Haiching, British str. from Coast Ports.
 - 7, Haldis, Norwegian str. from Moji.
 - 7, Hangsang, British str. from Shanghai.
 - 7, Kohsichang, German str. from Bangkok.
 - 7, Loosok, German str. from Bangkok.
 - 7, Lyndhurst, British str. from N. York.
 - 7, Richmond Castle, Brit. str. from Shanghai.
 - 7, Wongkoi, German str. from Bangkok.
 - 7, Yiksang, British str. from Chinkiang.
 - 8, Chitose, Japanese cruiser, from Takao.
 - 8, Chunsang, British str. from Swatow.
 - 8, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str. from Moji.
 - 8, Michael Jensen, Ger. str. from Haiphong.
 - 8, Ness, British str. from Moji.
 - 8, Pleiades, American str. from Tacoma.
 - 8, Shansi, British str. from Wuhu.
 - 8, Uganda, British trspt, from Calcutta.
 - 8, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str. from London.
 - 8, Wakool, British trspt, from Cap. Town.
 - 9, Daijin Maru, Japanese str. from Tamsui.
 - 9, Erithjof, Norwegian str. from Hongay.
 - 9, Hongwan I, British str. from Straits.
 - 9, Hunan, British str. from Canton.
 - 9, Prima, Norwegian str. from Iloilo.
 - 9, Tyr, Norwegian str. from Canton.
 - 9, Yochow, British str. from Shanghai.
 - 9, Zafiro, British str. from Manila.
 - 10, Awamba, Danish str. from Wuhu.
 - 10, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str. from S. F. cisco.
 - 10, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str. from Kootzu.
 - 10, Kweiyang, British str. from Canton.
 - 10, Loongmoon, German str. from Canton.
 - 10, Thales, British str. from Swatow.
 - 10, Valatta, British str. from Shanghai.
 - 10, Yuensang, British str. from Manila.
- October—
- DEPARTURES.
- 5, Foochow, British str. for Canton.
 - 5, Tyr, Norwegian str. for Canton.
 - 6, Hillgren, British str. for New York.
 - 6, Hoihow, French str. for Haiphong.
 - 6, Loongmoon, German str. for Canton.
 - 6, Oceania, French str. for Europe.
 - 6, Shinano Maru, Japanese str. for Seattle.
 - 7, Agamemnon, British str. for Shanghai.
 - 7, Amara, British str. for Shanghai.
 - 7, Borg, Norwegian str. for Bangkok.
 - 7, Hangsang, British str. for Canton.
 - 7, Hanoi, French str. for Hoihow.
 - 7, Kweiyang, British str. for Canton.
 - 7, Loongsang, British str. for Manila.
 - 7, Lyeamoon, German str. for Shanghai.
 - 7, Miike Maru, Japanese str. for Moji.
 - 7, Namsang, British str. for Calcutta.
 - 7, Pel yo, British str. for Singapore.
 - 7, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str. for Manila.
 - 7, Thales, British str. for Swatow.
 - 7, Toonan, Chinese str. for Shanghai.
 - 7, Yiksang, British str. for Canton.
 - 8, Anping Maru, Jap. str. for Coast Ports.
 - 8, Athenian, British str. for Vancouver.
 - 8, Chinkiang, British str. for Shanghai.
 - 8, Freiburg, German str. for Hamburg.
 - 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str. for K'chauwan.
 - 8, Saga, Norwegian str. for Bangkok.
 - 8, Shansi, British str. for Canton.
 - 8, Sishan, British str. for Swatow.
 - 8, Taifu, German str. for Mauritius.
 - 8, Zvir, Norwegian str. for Moji.
 - 9, Apenrade, German str. for Hoihow.
 - 9, Chunsang, British str. for Canton.
 - 9, Diamante, British str. for Manila.
 - 9, Elita Nossack, German str. for Hongay.
 - 9, Haiching, British str. for Coast Ports.
 - 9, Quang-nam, French str. for Saigon.
 - 9, Savoia, German str. for Nagasaki.
 - 9, Sungkiang, British str. for Manila.
 - 9, Uganda, British transport, for Taku.
 - 9, Yochow, British str. for Canton.
 - 10, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str. for Bombay.
 - 10, Korea, American str. for San Francisco.
 - 10, Loyal, German str. for Bangkok.
 - 10, Ness, British str. for Moji.

- 10, Petehaburi, German str. for Bangkok.
- 10, Phranang, German str. for Bangkok.
- 10, Richmond Castle, British str. for Manila.
- 10, Tyr, Norwegian str. for Hongay.
- 10, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str. for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sandakan*, from Sandakan, Messrs. Pyke, Bradbury and Harvey.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Messrs. Bortwick, Harrison, Huddy and French.

Per *Ernest Simon*, for Hongkong, from Marsilles, Mr. Gladin; from Singapore, Capt. B. Roberts and J. M. MacTier, Miss Goldenberg and Mr. Huyech; from Saigon, Messrs. R. Arima, Chye Hupp, Pongmayon, Gendron and Merdignat; for Shanghai, from Marsilles, Messrs. Binder, de Galambert, Gohring, Creteaux, Jasson, Dupont, Lecourt, Louis des Petits, Vershuren and Blum; from Singapore, Messrs. Meech, Shapira, E. Valenzik and Hogue Yusop; from Saigon, Messrs. Barrol and Bertsch; for Yokohama, from Marsilles, Messrs. St. Fort, Montier, Jonequiere, Mercier, Poret and Gascon; from Singapore, Messrs. Hakagawa and S. Kato; from Saigon, Mr. L. Vuol.

Per *Oceanica*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. E. de la Rama and J. S. Higgins; from Nagasaki, Mr. Dala Marcher; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilmsen, Mr. and Mrs. Chassain, Lieut. Reiser, Dr. W. D. Soli, Miss Madeline Boyd, Messrs. Clu ton, E. T. Guis, John Lourie, Schwab, Wm. Hylop, S. Silva Netto, Severino, Nodale and Henri Guinstein; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr. Delprat; from Nagasaki, Mr. Chino Matsumo; for Colombo, from Nagasaki, Mr. J. W. Shelhorn; from Yokohama, Messrs. Burgkardt and G. Shulger; from Shanghai, Messrs. H. Bellon and Komireo; for Bombay, from Kobe, Mr. N. Dastur; from Yokohama, Lieut. G. W. J. Haslam; from Shanghai, Mr. S. Din; for Marsilles, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Haas, Messrs. J. B. R. bel and Taire; from Kobe, Messrs. Daguerre, Bougrain, Duhamel, Deffarges, Thouvenin, Le Gall and Odot; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Barbani and Latrice; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Fortios, Messrs. Noguette, Penin, Le B... Muller, Jamet, Blaye, Bouzourd, Fredon, Aubert, Mongellaz, Sarroulhe, Sarmy, Maurin, Rousselot, Poillez, Carre, Le Fouest, Boulter, Cozan, Riou, Bensit and Dosson.

Per *Savoia*, from Vladivostok, &c., Mrs. Wiese, Messrs. Delfs, Perleberg and Weismann.

Per *Wongkoi*, from Bangkok, Mr. and Mrs. Brockmann.

Per *Hatching*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Butcher and Mr. Fockin.

Per *Glenesk*, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. Rogers and Taylor.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Graham, Major and Mrs. Miller and two children, Mrs. Stanly, Mrs. and Miss Espetata, Messrs. M. and A. Espetata, Moulder, Gastar, Shamlce, Heno, Willcox, Upham, Caimmille, Stotzel, Correa, Cruz, J. and A. Hermogebes, Caicin, R. Sileta, Y. Minematsu, J. E. White and W. Stanly.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss E. Meech, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Newton, Mrs. Delsarte and child, Miss Bateman, Messrs. W. McMaster, J. Smith, W. Bassford, T. E. Collinge, W. Tearing and F. Stanley; for Kobe, Miss E. P. Scott, Messrs. R. Taki and T. Nagano; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Showler and two children, Mr. and Mrs. McRoberts, Mrs. T. Matsumoto and two children, Miss Braybrooks, Dr. H. Sasaki, Messrs. W. H. Blackmore, T. Miyamoto, K. Assano, McDowell, Lovell and A. Throup.

Per *Yochow*, from Shanghai, Miss Hastings, Mr. Spik and Sergt. D. O. Roberts.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mrs. Macoudray, Capt. Andersen, Messrs. Hartigan, Price, I. Turpin and P. Carrajar.

DEPARTED.

Per *Aua Maru*, from Hongkong, for London, &c., Rev. and Mrs. Chappell and child, Mrs. Mildred, Mrs. E. H. Sandford, Mrs. Holworth and two children, Mrs. Kliene and four children, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Denning and three children Misses, Earr, Lily Seymour and Eva Seymour, Rev. A. S. Geden, Deaconess V. Hide, Dr. O. S. Townsend, Master Edwards, Capt. J. B. A. Graté, T. Yamazaki, K.

Takunaga, K. Kakigawa and K. Ugaki, Major Tamura, Messrs. Holworth, B. John, E. Fluess, C. F. Vincent, I. J. Smither, F. T. Reade, M. Rakayama, Chs. H. Seymour, K. Yakate, T. Sato, K. Iijima and K. Soejima.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Hongkong, for Thursday Island, Mr. Yokoyama; for Brisbane, Mr. and Mrs. Falconer; for Sydney, Hon. J. J. Casey, K.C., Miss Annie Bates, Dr. Otto Strebel, Messrs. H. E. Good, J. J. Murphy, T. Matsumoto, Thos. McEbray, B. Matsuo, Shomura, and James Pinnoek; for Melbourne, Rev. J. W. and Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Wm. Smith, Misses Fox Strangways, A. Smith, Scott and L. Smith, Messrs. F. T. Newton, F. McP. Smith and S. May.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Lieut.-Comdr. and Mrs. J. F. Parker and infant, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Bentley, Dr. and Mrs. Barney, Mr. and Mrs. M. Angulo, Mrs. R. Yamashiro, Miss N. Yamashiro, Miss N. and Master Ossorio, Miss C. Arago, Master A. Rivera, Messrs. S. Ossorio, A. Drebumer, S. Egnchi, P. Banlista, H. Brown, R. G. McCleod, R. H. Munger, L. R. Lewis, F. M. Bowes, A. S. Thompson, C. E. Le Munger, D. Mann, A. D. Gibbs, A. and M. Egea, W. C. Finley, C. L. Hall, E. C. Freed, W. Davidson, C. Ryder, A. Mann, A. E. Bealer, J. J. Racine, R. J. McTord and R. Goldmann.

Per *Hamburg*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Peech, Mrs. O. Remedios and family, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Schierhorst and child, Miss Hahn, Count Fernandez, Messrs. S. Gryp, B. J. Tours, C. Georg, W. Schredd, P. Lobo, S. Silva, E. A. Grigson and G. Thornton; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Botelho, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Botelho, Jr., Mrs. B. J. H. Botelho, Miss C. Botelho, Messrs. B. Baldwin and T. Kakimoto; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. de Waal, Mrs. G. Acebo and children and Mr. T. Elizalde.

Per *Shinano Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. P. Kemp, Rev. and Mrs. R. Irwin and child, Dr. and Mrs. C. de Azevedo, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Master Hashimoto, Dr. W. Horn, Messrs. J. H. Kemp, W. Zazersky, J. P. Gale, W. Kalwert, J. Orlich, C. Bradbury, A. Bucke, K. Shimada, J. Kawakita and K. Koto.

Per *Oceanica*, for Saigon, Mr. Guis; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Meun, Messrs. A. H. Wheeler, H. P. Perry, R. P. Douenot and P. Sirens; for Colombo, Capt. R. C. Morris and Gregoire; for Bombay, Messrs. H. B. Bhesania, A. B. Avasia, S. H. Commissariat and F. R. Dastur; for Marsilles, Messrs. Ducaroy, de Broc, M. J. Frade, P. Dias, M. Kirencoff, Le Boulenger, Stamler, Coché, Le Tallec, M. Jondras, Paul Pelen, Le Maire, Pouliquier, Gosuet, S. vina, Le Fevre and W. Bugg.

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